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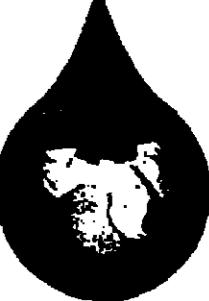
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Paris withdraws aircraft carrier

French presence in Gulf to continue

By Fathima Ahmed

FRENCH Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement yesterday said that the reduction of the French naval task force in the Indian Ocean does not mean the end of French presence in the Gulf region.

The French Defence Ministry said in Paris yesterday it was withdrawing the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, two support ships, and one minesweeper from its Indian Ocean fleet which covers the Gulf.

Situation

The Defence Ministry said the move was made "taking into account the evolution of the situation in the region and the new perspectives for peace."

Chevenement said that if conditions change for the worse, the aircraft carrier Foch could be in the area within 15 days. The Foch and the Clemenceau, France's only aircraft carriers, are based in the Mediterranean port of Toulon.

Chevenement yesterday visited two French frigates, the

Iraq sends merchant ship into Gulf

BAGHDAD, Sept 4. (Reuter): Iraq today sent a merchant ship into the Gulf in an apparent challenge to Iran's self-declared right to search vessels despite the ceasefire in their eight-year war.

The Iraqi ship Khawla sailed from Umm Qasr port south of Basra to the Mediterranean at 9.15 am (0515 GMT), the official Iraqi News Agency

(INA) said, adding that the vessel was carrying 3,000 tonnes of fertiliser.

Iraq's policy of continuing to intercept Iraqi-bound war cars in the Gulf is one of the issues over which Geneva peace talks have been stalled since they began 10 days ago.

Iraq says that under the terms



ement said: "Yes, provided it is supervised by the United Nations, as there is scope for cooperation between nations."

Chevenement said it was vital to clear the Gulf of mines and protect shipping. He called on the international community to pool efforts to clear the Gulf waterway of mines.

"It is vital to clear the Gulf waterway though it (mine-sweeping) is a difficult task and considerable work is involved. An initiative must be taken by the international community to help clear the waterway of mines," he emphasised.

"We are interested to see peace and stability in the region," he stressed.

Chevenement parried questions on reported French proposal to supply Mirage 2000 multi-role fighter planes and other weapons to Kuwait. But he indicated France's willingness to provide weapons and aircraft if approached.

Weapons

"There is the possibility of co-operating not only in (providing) aircraft but other weapons, and in other fields, as well," he said.

Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaif Al Ahmed, who was at the airport to see off the French minister, indicated Kuwait's willingness to diversify its weapons sources.

"Kuwait will meet its need for various equipment and other weapons and we are studying several proposals," Sheikh Nawaif said.

Though he did not elaborate (Continued on Page 2)

Peres wants peace with Palestinians

LONDON, Sept 4. (Agencies): Israeli politician Shimon Peres was quoted today as saying he would not join another national unity coalition which rejected a compromise peace with the PLO.

"We shall not join in any government that will say no to the peace process," Peres was reported as telling *The Observer*, the liberal London weekly.

His statement "seemed to rule out a continuation" of the coalition between his Labour Party and the right-wing Likud which has ruled Israel for the past four years, said the newspaper which interviewed Peres in Jerusalem last week.

Willing

Peres, a former prime minister, is his party's candidate for the post again in the Nov 1 general elections.

The report quoted Peres as saying he wants discussions with Palestinians willing to recognise the 1967 UN Security Council Resolution 242 which called for withdrawal from occupied territory and respect for Israel's right to live without secure borders.

Peres said his party is ready to trade territory for peace and accept a timetable for the transition from interim to permanent settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

The Observer quoted Peres as saying: "I'm saying this time it's not a choice between parties, it's a choice between destinies. What sort of Israel will it be in the future?"

King Hussein told reporters: "We are waiting for the Palestinians to solidify their position so that we may offer them support."

He said he hoped the Iran-Iraq ceasefire would allow greater efforts to be made toward solving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We hope the ceasefire will lead to a durable peace in the region so that the light can be focussed on the Palestinian cause, which has been put in the hands of its owners," said Hus-

sein.

The visit by the King to Egypt was the first since Jordan broke administrative and legal links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank on July 31.

The two countries held secret contacts during the past three months, the sources added.

The move left the PLO to fill the vacuum.



ces said today that its director-general Avraham Tamir will probably not be disciplined for saying that the PLO represents all Palestinians.

Remark

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called for Avraham Tamir to be sacked after he made the remark to a Jewish group in the United States last week.

"I don't believe anything will happen to him," one Foreign Ministry source said. He dismissed Shamir's reaction as political campaigning prior to general elections in November.

Officially, the ministry has said that Tamir's remark did not conflict with government policy. But officials said privately that it had embarrassed Peres and was badly timed before the election.

UK, Syria to resume ties

SHARJAH, Sept 4. (KUNA): Britain and Syria have agreed to resume diplomatic relations and settle all problems between the two countries, according to a report published today.

The daily Al Khaleej quoted reliable British sources in London as saying that the resumption of ties and appointment of ambassadors will take place within two weeks.

The two countries held secret contacts during the past three months, the sources added.

The move left the PLO to fill the vacuum.

A senior Arab official close to both Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher paved the way for these contacts, the sources said.

Two other senior GCC officials followed up the issue during their separate visits to Britain early this year and in July, the sources added.

Britain severed diplomatic ties with Syria in Oct 1986 and halted Syrian Airlines' flights to London and Syria took similar measures against Britain.

The move left the PLO to fill the vacuum.

The officials estimated that 20 million people were marooned in 50 of the country's 64 districts that were battered by the current floods. No drinking water was available as hand pumps in the area had submerged.

The Bangladesh government issued fresh appeals for boats, helicopters and three million tons of food to combat a deluge that has affected an estimated 30 million people.

The daily Sangbad said 40 people died across the country (Continued on Page 2)

GCC ministers meet to map post-war strategy

Saudis call for new spirit of peace

RIYADH, Sept 4. (Agencies):

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal said today that Iran's turn to peace with Iraq was "a crucial and significant" development, but stressed that "a new spirit that respects good neighbourly ties and rejects aggression, avoids sabotage and interference in the internal affairs of neighbours and seeks unity of Muslims and directing efforts to the good of Islam."

Resolution 598.

But he cautioned Iran that ending the nearly eight-year-old Gulf war "is not sufficient in itself, unless backed by a new spirit that respects good neighbourly ties and rejects aggression, avoids sabotage and interference in the internal affairs of neighbours and seeks unity of Muslims and directing efforts to the good of Islam."

Expected

The GCC session, attended by the foreign ministers of the council's member states, was expected to last two days.

The ministers will seek ways to help break the deadlocked peace talks in Geneva and map out a post-war strategy for the region.

It was the first meeting by the alliance since Iran unexpectedly announced on July 18 its unconditional acceptance of Resolution 598, which called for a ceasefire in the war. The truce took hold on Aug 20.

The ministers arriving for the meeting at the GCC headquarters in the Saudi capital, stressed



Sheikh Sabah

they will focus on how to consolidate the peace negotiations and prepare for co-operation between Gulf states in the post-war era.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed, Kuwait Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, noted that article 8 of Resolution 598

(Continued on Page 4)

8,000 dead in Sudanese famine

KHARTOUM, Sept 4. (Reuter):

A senior Sudanese Army officer said today scores of people were dying of hunger every day in an isolated southwestern town and a Khartoum newspaper reported 8,000 people had died there so far.

Relief officials said hundreds of destitute people from several famine-hit southern districts were trekking north in search of food in towns which had little relief to offer.

They said more than 30 people a day were dying in one such town, Al Meiram, to which refugees were flocking from the neighbouring southwestern province of Bahr Al Ghazal.

"They arrive with barely any clothes on, no cattle and only water gourds," said one relief official after a visit to Al Meiram in the province of southern Kordofan.

Hunger

The military commander of Bahr Al Ghazal, Major-General Abugroun Abdullah Abugroun, was quoted as saying the same number of people died of hunger in the province's town of Aweil every day as were killed in northern Sudan by floods last month.

"The state is concerned with the north and ignores the south," he told today's edition of the weekly Sawt Al Sharqia.

They were also trying to organise a food airlift for Al Meiram, where about 30,000 refugees are camped.

The officials said the number of malnutrition deaths among the refugees had jumped dramatically from the average of 30 a day in June and July.

(Continued on Page 2)

Bangladeshis face starvation, disease

DHAKA, Sept 4. (Agencies): An estimated 20 million people were living on raw food and were drinking flood waters across Bangladesh as the death toll in monsoon floods reached 882 today, officials and news reports said.

"Shortage of medicine, cooked food and drinking water is causing untold miseries to millions of marooned people," said an official at the Relief Ministry in Dhaka.

Relief officials were unable to reach many flood-battered interior areas where a large number of people were feared trapped with meagre or no food and potable water, officials from four areas said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they did not have enough boats to reach the areas.

Appeals

The officials estimated that 20 million people were marooned in 50 of the country's 64 districts that were battered by the current floods. No drinking water was available as hand pumps in the area had submerged.

The Bangladesh government issued fresh appeals for boats, helicopters and three million tons of food to combat a deluge that has affected an estimated 30 million people.

Meanwhile, Dhaka remained cut off for the third day today as more areas of the runways at the international airport were submerged.

Japan, responding to Bangladesh's appeal for international aid, pledged \$1.3 million of "interim" flood relief today, the official BSS news agency said.

"Supply of petrol has been cut off due to breakdown of communication system between Dhaka and the port city of Chittagong," said one station owner, Giasuddin Ahmed.

"Unless to get fresh supplies the pumps will remain closed." Rain battered Dhaka today, triggering panic among the residents. An estimated half a million people have taken shelter in the capital from adjoining low-lying areas.

Their presence and uncertainties over the floods caused prices of goods to rise in the city. Rice, a staple, has shot up 40 per cent.

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(Continued on Page 2)

11 crewmen injured

UK naval ship damaged in collision in Gulf

ABU DHABI, Sept 4. (Agencies): The British destroyer Southampton docked in Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today after being involved in a collision with a merchant ship which it was escorting into the Gulf.

Officials at Fujairah port said the 3,560-tonne warship would remain in harbour for a few days for inspection after the accident 10 miles off the coast of Oman last night.

The collision with the 34,477-tonne British container vessel Tor Bay injured 11 sailors on the Southampton, three of whom suffered broken bones.

A Royal Navy spokesman said the Southampton, carrying a crew of 280, was holed in the port side.

He declined to describe how the collision occurred but said an investigation would be carried out.

Position
Shipping sources said the ships probably collided while manoeuvring into position for the destroyer to lead the Tor Bay through the narrow Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf.

The Southampton is part of a British task force which has been protecting British-flagged merchant vessels against Iranian attack during the Gulf war.

The Tor Bay's owners, P and O, said one ballast tank near the bow was holed. The ship was continuing to Dubai from Singapore. It will be repaired at the Dubai drydock.

On arrival at Fujairah, the sailors with broken bones were moved to the local government hospital. One witness at the port said the Southampton was "damaged extensively." (There's) a big gash on its port side, bigger than the size of a car.

Accidents

British naval sources in Oman noted that this was not the first time that the Southampton has been involved in such accidents.

"That destroyer has a history of bouncing off ships," said one of the sources, also describing it as "an unlucky ship." The one example he could immediately recall was that of the vessel hitting a buoy off Portland sometime ago. He did not remember the date.

No recess in Gulf peace talks

UN mediator proposes compromise formula

GENEVA, Sept 4. (Reuter):

United Nations mediator Jan Eliasson said today he planned no recess in the Iran-Iraq peace talks despite the distrust both sides say has prevented them from making progress.

The Swedish envoy, chosen on Thursday by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to take over Gulf mediation from him, said it was important to work hard to try to get agreement on small issues in order to build confidence.

"We

INTERNATIONAL

Committee formed to review defamation bill

Rajiv bows to public pressure

NEW DELHI, Sept. 4. (UPI): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi today set up a high-level committee to review a defamation bill that sparked a nationwide protest and postponed the introduction of the measure in the upper house of the Parliament.

The decision to defer the controversial bill and refer it to a ministerial committee was announced by Rajiv during a speech he gave to officials of his ruling Congress (I) Party.

It follows a nationwide protest by opposition parties, journalists, lawyers and civil rights groups who allege the measure's intent was to censor the press and violate the constitutional guarantee of free speech.

Curtail "The government never wanted to curtail the freedom of the press, this freedom is one of the pillars of democracy," Rajiv said during the speech.

"If freedom of the press is jeoparded in any way our democracy will be weakened... at no point of time we wanted to lessen this freedom. There is no question of reducing this freedom," the Indian leader said of charges his government wanted to curtail press freedom.

The proposed bill would subject a person to criminal charges for false statements that adversely affect the reputation of a person or association.

The bill attracted widespread criticism because it would force defendants to prove the veracity

of their statements, would provide for secret trials and would allow charges to be filed anywhere in India, irrespective of where the law was violated.

Convictions would bring up to five years in jail.

The media could be prosecuted for reporting statements that violated the law, a provision opponents claim would prohibit the publication of any anti-government charges by opposition parties.

Government agencies and its officials would be exempt from the proposed law.

The National Press Co-ordination Committee in a statement said it would stage a demonstration and nationwide newspaper strike tomorrow.

Curtail The committee will fight for the withdrawal of the bill, which the statement said would introduce censorship.

Rajiv said during the meeting with his party officials that Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao will head the "high-powered" committee, whose members include Information and Broadcasting Minister H.K.L. Bhagat and several senior cabinet ministers including Home, Finance and Law.

The committee would seek opinion from journalists and other groups and initiate steps to remove fears about freedom of the press, Rajiv said. He said the government does not want to curtail the press, but at the same time, people must be protected against defamation.

Kurdish rebels take a beating

ULUDERE, Turkey, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Fleeing Kurdish fighters say Iraq is using artillery and poison gas in a major offensive to finally crush a Kurdish rebellion going back to the 1920s.

One rebel leader who sought refuge in Turkey said the situation was worse than Vietnam.

The picture emerging from a mass exodus of rebels and refugees was that the Kurds, fighting for autonomy for more than 60 years, had taken a beating they might never recover from.

"If I tell you what has happened, you won't believe it. It is worse than Vietnam," said Akram May, a Peshmerga guerrilla leader from the Zakho area of northwest Iraq.

"Because we are a poor people on one will help us."

May and other fighters joined tens of thousands of civilians who escaped from Iraq since President Saddam Hussein turned his troops on the Kurdish rebels.

Ethnic strife leads Yugoslavia into economic crisis: Serbs

CRVENKA, Yugoslavia, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Thousands of Yugoslav protesters accused the country's communist rulers today of leaving ethnic strife unchecked while promoting economic ruin.

Serbian and Montenegrin protesters charged the leadership of this Balkan federation with allowing a Serb-Albanian ethnic conflict to go uncured in Kosovo province.

They also joined growing worker-criticism of politicians for corruption and incompetence as the country sinks deep into economic crisis involving 200 per cent inflation and huge debts.

Today's protest in the heart of Vojvodina supported Serbian Communist Party President Slobodan Milosevic's constitutional reform drive to wrest back the two areas under central Serbian rule.



Blacks and Anglicans urged to boycott polls

Tutu defies state of emergency

CAPE TOWN, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Black Archbishop Desmond Tutu, defying South Africa's state of emergency regulations urged blacks and Anglicans today not to vote in nationwide municipal elections next month.

Risking up to 10 years' imprisonment under emergency laws, Tutu made his plea to a packed multiracial congregation from the pulpit of St George's Cathedral in Cape Town.

Demands

"I call on all Anglicans in this diocese to consider carefully what God demands of them in this matter."

"I urge black people in this diocese not to vote in the October elections. I hope white Anglicans will join their black fellow Anglicans in that action," said

Tutu, an outspoken opponent for apartheid race segregation.

Calls to boycott the Oct. 26 elections are outlawed under the 27-month-old state of emergency and carry a penalty of up to 10 years in prison or a 20,000 rand (\$8,000) fine.

"I am aware of the penalties attached to this call," Tutu, dressed in white and gold archbishop's robes, said solemnly. "I am not defying the government. I obey God."

Opposed

Tutu, a Nobel peace prize winner, is Archbishop of Cape Town and head of the Anglican church in Southern Africa.

The municipal elections, for all races, are opposed by anti-apartheid campaigners who regard

black town councils as a front for maintaining white domination.

"These elections in an unjust dispensation cannot be fair."

"These elections in an unjust dispensation cannot be fair. The government is guilty of intimidation in wanting to force participation by placing heavy penalties on those calling for a boycott..." Tutu told the congregation of several hundred people which included the mayor of Cape Town.

Tutu has been in direct confrontation with President P.W. Botha over his calls for international anti-apartheid sanctions and for leading a protest march on Parliament last February.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said in a speech on

Friday that the time had come to "clip the wings" of people who hid behind the mask of liberation theology.

Responsible

Tutu asked why people responsible for attacks on anti-apartheid organisations were not normally arrested.

Referring to a bomb blast which devastated the Johannesburg offices of the anti-apartheid South African Council of Churches last week, Tutus said: "We do not know who is responsible but we keep on being suspicious."

He said it was the latest in a series of mysterious attacks on anti-apartheid groups.

Tutu was speaking at the ceremonial installation of Colin Jones as the first non-white dean of Cape Town.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sam White dies

PARIS, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Sam White, Paris correspondent for the London Evening Standard, died today aged 77, his family said.

White, who was first taken on at the Standard by British press baron Lord Beaverbrook, died at a Paris clinic where he had been receiving treatment for respiratory problems.

"He lived well until the end. He didn't give anything up—smoking, eating or drinking," daughter-in-law Linda White said.

Escape

BERLIN, Sept. 4. (UPI): In the third such escape in two weeks, two East Germans swam a body of water to West Berlin early today, West Berlin police reported.

The men, 20 and 30, were seen by border guards on the eastern bank of the Britz canal, but the guards did not shoot.

On Friday two men swam the Havel river to flee to West Berlin. They told West Berlin police an East German patrol boat had seen them as they swam the river but did not open fire.

Two weeks ago four East Germans, three men and a woman, swam the Spree river to West Berlin near the Reichstag, the pre-war parliament building.

Power restored

SEATTLE, Sept. 4. (AP): Utility crews finally restored service last night to parts of a 50-block downtown section that had been without electricity since the mid-day of the week.

But Seattle city light officials asked customers not to turn on their air conditioning immediately, out of fear of a surge of demand on one of the hottest days of the year. The temperature in Seattle hit 92 degrees Fahrenheit (33.33 Celsius), a record for the date, the National Weather Service said.

French presence ...

(Continued from Page 1) on the nature of the proposed peace indicated Kuwait's willingness to buy weapons to suit its needs and strengthen military defence.

Chevenement, who was on his first trip outside Europe since he took office three months ago, said, he regretted failing to open political and military negotiations during his meetings with the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and Sheikh Nawaf.

The French minister said his country was "keen to further develop ancient ties with Kuwait in political, military and other fields."

Diehard coalminers end strike

Walesa faces dual challenge

WARSAW, Sept. 4. (Reuters): The end of Poland's labour unrest presented Solidarity leader Lech Walesa today with the challenge of winning concessions from the government to satisfy radical workers beyond the banned union's control.

Poland's worst strike wave in seven years ended yesterday after Walesa persuaded the last diehard coalminers to end their 20-day protest. Port workers and bus drivers in the northwestern city of Szczecin also halted stoppages.

Walesa urged a halt to the strikes after the communist authorities opened contacts with him for the first time in more than six years and promised they would consider re-legalising Solidarity, suppressed under martial law in Dec. 1981.

"After the lessons of the past seven years, we have all understood that dialogue is needed," Walesa said yesterday in his hometown of Gdansk. "This time we must succeed in achieving compromise, because talks at the table mean compromise."

Seek

His appeal appeared directed not only at the communist leadership but also at radical young workers who showed during the strikes they suspect Walesa will be too willing to seek accommodation with the authorities in negotiations this month.

Polish political sources and Western diplomats said these workers, many of whom were mere teenagers when Walesa created Solidarity in 1980, were bearing the brunt of Poland's

Walesa

economic crisis and saw little reason to compromise with the government.

Unless their elders, who can bear testimony to Walesa's courage and skills of leadership in 1980 and 1981, many young workers feel little direct allegiance to him and suspect he may be out of touch with present realities, the sources said.

Suspicion

Walesa's problem was highlighted in the close vote by which strikers at Gdansk's Lenin Shipyard, Solidarity's birthplace, decided on Aug. 31 to return to work.

In Jastrzebie, scene of the last coal mine stoppage, he needed eight hours to overcome the suspicion of the pitmen and persuade them to restart work.

Bangladeshis face starvation, disease

(Continued from Page 1)

Pakistan, the United States, Britain and Australia have already promised nearly \$1.5 million in rice and cash.

But officials say that relief supplies from abroad cannot start reaching the country in bulk until Dhaka airport reopens.

"The survival of an estimated 10 million people made homeless or stranded by the floods will depend much on how soon normal air traffic resumes," one relief official said.

At least 65 people have died of diarrhoea and dysentery caused by rotten food and contaminated water in the past week.

Doctors say thousands of families sheltering in overcrowded relief camps in Dhaka, huddling on river embankments or clinging to their flooded homes are threatened by starvation and disease.

Supplies

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said the country had only 1.2 million tonnes of grains in stock and needed nearly three million tonnes in emergency supplies.

Anthony Kennedy, chief representative in Dhaka of the

8,000 dead in ...

(Continued from Page 1)

The Irish relief agency Concern yesterday sent eight lorries from Khartoum loaded with supplies for southern Kordofan.

Al Ayam said several hundred southerners had died of hunger and exhaustion while trying to walk 300 km (180 miles) to southern Kordofan from Wau, capital of Bahr Al Ghazal.

A group of Sudanese Catholic bishops said on Friday that up to 10,000 people could die in Torit, in the southern Equatorial Region bordering Uganda, if 250 tonnes of food did not get through immediately.

Rebels

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was due to meet SPLA members in Adua Ababa today to discuss a plan to send food and aid to six southern towns held by either the rebels or the Army.

The ICRC two weeks ago gave the guerrillas a final plan, drafted in February but stalled for months, which the Khartoum government has already approved.

Brezhnev's son-in-law goes on trial for bribery

MOSCOW, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Yuri Churbanov, the disgraced son-in-law of Leonid Brezhnev, will face the Soviet Supreme Court tomorrow in a multi-million dollar corruption case expected to put the entire Brezhnev family on trial.

Eight other top police officers, all from Uzbekistan, will be in the dock with him before the court's military college. Together they are accused of amassing several million dollars in bribes in the form of currency, gold and jewels.

"Such phenomena as bribery, speculation and theft existed before Brezhnev, but under him they flourished," Soviet deputy public prosecutor Alexander Katusev said in a commentary setting the tone of the courtroom drama.

Churbanov's defence attorney, Andrei Makarov, has warned that the trial must not be used to judge "everything negative that took place in our country" during Brezhnev's 1964-82 rule.

But even before the court convenes, the press had made Churbanov into a powerful symbol of the Soviet decline under Brezhnev which Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev is seeking to reverse through his "perestroika" restructuring campaign.

Some 200 witnesses, including Galina Brezhnev, will testify in proceedings lasting several months. Foreign reporters will be admitted to court for the first four days. Selected members of the Soviet public will be let in with special passes.

A Soviet spokesman has confirmed that large-scale economic crimes are still punishable by the death penalty, but it is believed unlikely Churbanov would face execution if convicted.

State prosecutor Alexander Sboev, who will plead the government's case, recently said Churbanov's co-operation with investigators would be viewed as

an extenuating circumstance. He said Churbanov confessed after his February 1987 arrest and helped police uncover a network of crime in Uzbekistan.

Soviet press accounts have described staggering corruption in Uzbekistan, a central Asian cotton-growing republic where state farm workers, underground millionaires, police and Communist Party officials collaborated to cheat the state.

The party newspaper Pravda said in January that "cotton kings" had stolen four billion roubles (\$5.7 billion) from the state, "half of which went into their pockets," in a massive swindle involving falsified cotton production figures.

It said investigators had seized 4.5 million roubles (\$7.5 million), more than two-thirds of it in gold coins and jewels and much of it buried in far-flung Uzbek villages.

Eight other top police officers, all from Uzbekistan, will be in the dock with him before the court's military college. Together they are accused of amassing several million dollars in bribes in the form of currency, gold and jewels.

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Lee leads ruling party to a landslide victory

SINGAPORE: Sept 4. (Reuters): Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew led his ruling People's Action Party to a landslide election victory and said he would step down as premier after 30 years in office.

Lee, at a news conference today after the final results of yesterday's voting were announced, said he would step down as prime minister whenever his nominated successor Goh Chok Tong felt ready to take over.

"My successor ... can indeed me and have my seat," said Lee, who will be 65 years old on Sept 16.

Ready

But Goh, the first Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, said the time was not yet ripe. "Inside two years I'll be ready to gently nudge the prime minister out, or try anyway."

In yesterday's general election, held 15 months ahead of schedule, the ruling party won 80 of 81 seats at stake, 11 of them uncontested and captured 61.8 per cent of the vote, keeping its popularity level almost intact.

Only Chiam See Tong of the opposition Singapore Democratic Party who won re-election, was able to deny the ruling party a clean sweep.

Non-Aligned Movement meeting

Massive security alert in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Sept 4. (Reuters): Cyprus has ordered a massive security alert to protect foreign ministers gathering for a meeting of 99 states of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Officials said the conference opening in the capital Nicosia tomorrow would be the biggest ever held on the island and security was a major concern.

Some 2,000 police has been mobilised to provide round-the-clock security for some 60 foreign ministers and 800 delegates.

Members of the island's crack anti-terrorist police squad staged exercises outside the new \$13-million conference centre last week.

Another police contingent mounted a trial "escort service" for ministers arriving at Larnaca airport on the southern coast, about 40 km (25 miles) from Nicosia.

The alert has been ordered because of several guerrilla incidents in Cyprus in recent years involving mainly Middle Eastern groups.

Last May a car exploded on a road bridge in central Nicosia, killing three people. The nearby Israeli embassy was believed to have been the target.

In April, pro-Iranian radicals forced a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner to land in Larnaca and killed two hostages before taking off for Algiers.

An official at the conference said armed guards were already patrolling in and around the venue ahead of the meeting, which begins with senior officials meeting in preparatory sessions.

Disgraced leader dies

MOSCOW, Sept 4. (Reuters): The death of retired Georgian Communist Party leader Vasily Mzhvanadze at age 85 has been reported in an official announcement which made no reference to his former rank and described him as a "pensioner."

The term is the same used to describe Nikita Khrushchev when he died in disgrace in 1971, seven years after his ouster as Soviet leader in a Kremlin coup.

Deng Xiaoping in declining health

BEIJING, Sept 4. (UPI): Senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who turned 84 last month, is suffering a prostate problem and is in declining health, a source close to the family said today.

Family friends said the veteran revolutionary has become increasingly reluctant to step outside in recent months, only emerging from his courtyard home in a sequestered Beijing lane to meet visiting heads of state or to attend major gatherings.

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Lee: ready to quit

Lee, who came to power in 1959, the year the island became a self-governing state after years of British rule, said his party's eighth consecutive election win was a solid mandate for the new generation of younger leaders.

"The transition is complete," he said.

The election heralded a changing of the guard for the party, 14 of whose veterans stepped down to make way for new candidates, most of them professionals in their 30s and 40s.

Old

Lee was the only member of the old guard in the election line-up and the most popular. He won 79.4 per cent of the votes cast in his old Tanjong Pagar constituency, the best showing among 156 candidates who contested 70 seats.

Goh said he would prepare a new cabinet list in the next two to three days and present it to Lee for his approval.

In the last elections in 1984, the ruling party lost two of 79 seats at stake and its share of the vote dropped to 62.9 per cent from 75.6 per cent previously. It was the first time it had failed to sweep the board since independence in 1965.

Thousands of Burmese march through monsoon showers in Rangoon demanding democracy.

US congressman in Burma to assess situation

RANGOON, Sept 4. (AP): US Congressman Stephen J. Solarz, a critic of authoritarian governments in Asia, arrived in Burma's capital yesterday where entrenched leaders continue to hold out against widespread opposition demanding a return to democracy.

Usually reliable sources said Solarz was to meet with President Maung Maung and key opposition figures, and Solarz said that he came to "see what, if anything, the United States can do to facilitate the peaceful emergence of a genuine democracy."

They said 12 people on the platform were wounded, three seriously, but said casualties were limited because the washing machines received the full force of the blast.

Blame

There was no indication of who planted the bomb, but officials have blamed other explosions in the city and in areas near the Afghan border on agents of the Kabul government seeking to destabilise Pakistan which supports Muslim rebels fighting the Soviet-installed regime in Afghanistan.

A bomb blast on Tuesday killed three people, including a soldier, and injured 14 on a train in northwestern Attock city.

Cure for snoring

BEIJING, Sept 4. (Agencies): Chinese scientists claim to have a cure for snoring, nasal drops made from natural ingredients, the official China Daily said today.

They remedy, said to be 95 percent effective, is planned to go into mass production next month and would be exported, the paper added.

"Two drops of the medicine placed in the nostrils before going to bed can stop snoring," the paper quoted the Health Care Product Research Centre director Yang Yisong as saying. He said it was the first such cure developed in China.

Yang described the potion as "the best treatment, because it is not only effective but also convenient and easy to use."

Indoors

Thousands watched as Roop Kanwar leapt into the flames last Sept 4, eight months after her marriage, and villagers grateful for the glory it brought this dusty corner of Rajasthan state planned a temple for the site of the death.

But isolated incidents still bring reverence and glorification from conservative Hindus who believe that the rite is the ultimate mark of a virtuous wife.

Outdoors

Thousands watched as Roop Kanwar leapt into the flames last Sept 4, eight months after her marriage, and villagers grateful for the glory it brought this dusty corner of Rajasthan state planned a temple for the site of the death.

But today the villagers kept indoors and police kept vigil at

leader wading into the waves

flanked by a half dozen muscular bodyguards has yet to appear this year.

He has referred increasingly to his own mortality in recent years, describing himself as "a setting sun" and telling one foreign visitor this summer that whether he was able to take his annual dip in the sea of Beidaihe would be proof of his health.

Refused

Deng has attributed his longevity to a daily cold shower, claiming that it has offset his indulgence in strong Chinese liquor and Panda-brand cigarettes.

The prostate is a male gland related to reproduction and in many older men it often swells, causing urinary problems and requiring surgery.

Tanned

Deng, looking deeply tanned and fit, met with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita last week on his return from several weeks at the northern seaside beach resort of Beidaihe, the summer playground of China's leaders.

But the regular summer

publicity shot of the diminutive

Deng has said he now works

only two hours a day, leaving the chief tasks of government to his chosen successor, Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang. "I still put forward some ideas, but other people do the work," he said.

While Deng recently said he had "basically" completed the task of lining up his succession, he remains the supreme force in Chinese politics, a position he will probably hold until he dies.

Watershed

Meeting with another foreign leader recently, Deng jokingly cited an ancient Chinese superstition which states that the ages of 73 and 84 are watershed years in a lifetime.

Deng has said he now works

only two hours a day, leaving the chief tasks of government to his chosen successor, Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang. "I still put forward some ideas, but other people do the work," he said.

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Al Ghazali Road Project on schedule

A RESPONSIBLE source at the Ministry of Public Works has said that the Al Ghazali Road Project is proceeding satisfactorily and that the French contracting company which is carrying out the work is on schedule.

The project will improve and expand about 4.1 kilometres of the Ghazali Road and will extend from south of its junction with Jamal Abdul Naser Road to the junction with the 5th Ring Road.

A 1,850-metre flyover and a pedestrian bridge are also planned. The crossroads of Ghazali Street, Jahra Road and the 3rd Ring Road will be improved to facilitate the flow of traffic.

The source pointed out that work on the project began on June 10, 1985 and is expected to be completed in February, at a cost of about KD 31 million.

Boodai Cargo wins award

BOODAI Aviation Cargo Division has won the Golden Cargo Award of Gulf Air as the number one cargo agent in Kuwait. They have also been nominated as the top cargo agent of Saudi Airlines.

Boodai Cargo has undergone tremendous growth and is now well-established and recognised on an international level, said Samer Darwish, manager of Boodai Aviation Cargo.

Boodai Cargo has also been appointed an exclusive member of the World Air Cargo Organisation.

Kuwaitis, Danes urge commitment to peace

By Jindrakota Porter

include visits to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

He said Denmark will urge its partners in the European Economic Community to step up their role in the peace negotiations.

Discussions yesterday between the Danish minister and HH the Amir centred on the Gulf peace negotiations. Kuwaiti-Danish political and economic co-operation, EEC-GCC negotiations and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Elleemann-Jensen and a 30-member accompanying delegation also met Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Al Osaimi and the president of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Al Saqr.

The Kuwaiti and Danish

officials agreed that the co-operation between the two countries should extend beyond a mere exchange of goods.

"We want our relations to go beyond the exchange of a barrel of oil for a case of cheese," said Elleemann-Jensen.

Discussing the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Danish minister said that developments in the occupied territories are threatening the peace process and are a breach of international law.

"We have told the Israelis so and will continue to do so," said Elleemann-Jensen.

"We hope that the moderates on both sides will gain sufficiently in strength so that the peace process can be furthered," he added. He also said Denmark supported plans for an international peace conference.



HH the Amir meets with Denmark's Foreign Minister Uffe Elleemann-Jensen (third from left).

Law revisions urged

SEVERAL Kuwaiti lawyers yesterday stressed that the present law governing the legal profession in the country has several shortcomings.

The lawyers said that new law graduates should receive at least two years of training before being permitted to appear in courts. New lawyers should come under strict scrutiny, they added.

The lawyers also said the law does not provide adequate protection or stability for lawyers in Kuwait.

Ahmadi ready for start of new academic year

THE director of Ahmadi Educational Area, Abdulla Al Lagman, has said that the area has completed preparations for the start of the new academic year tomorrow.

There are six new schools in the area. A number of classrooms are pre-fabricated, but these classrooms will be removed during the coming few years after more new schools are built in the field, he said.

Al Lagman also said that the newly-contracted Ministry of Education teachers have arrived in Kuwait, teachers of music and practical studies are still needed in the schools. The ministry is doing its best to find teachers for these subjects, he said.

Only offices, large halls, libraries and theatres have air-conditioning, he said. Classrooms only have fans.

Mirghani ends visit

THE leader of the Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party, Mohammed Othman Al Mirghani and his accompanying delegation left Kuwait yesterday for Iraq after an eight-day visit at the invitation from HH the Amir.

During their stay in Kuwait, the Sudanese delegation met HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and other high ranking officials.

Bilateral relations and ways of fostering them topped the talks, which also tackled the situation in Sudan following the flash floods in the country.

Two American films blacklisted

THE Israeli Boycott Office in Kuwait yesterday announced in the official Gazette the blacklisting of two American films, "King Kong Lives" and "Times Square".

The CBS network distributed the first and Columbia Pictures the second. Both companies are blacklisted by the Israeli Boycott Office.

Additionally, 30 branches and affiliated companies of the US Dover Corp. were blacklisted. The corporation was blacklisted in July.

A Cypriot company, General Agency Import and Export was also blacklisted. The firm was originally the Famagusta General Agency which was blacklisted in 1957. A French company, Israeli Chemical, operating in France under the name Transphos (Stapone) was also added to the list.

A Cypriot vessel "Sea Maid" was blacklisted for visiting an Israeli port and carrying a shipment for Israel.

The NHA staff who supervised the project was investigated

Kuwait cabinet reviews international developments

THE Kuwaiti cabinet yesterday discussed the progress of Iran-Iraq peace negotiations in Geneva. State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed said that the Council of Ministers hoped that negotiators will find practical formulas to apply the articles of Security Council Resolution 598 to ensure a lasting and comprehensive settlement and bring stability to the Gulf region.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah briefed the ministers last week's visit to Kuwait by Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan and his meeting with HH the Amir.

The Iraqi official conveyed a message from President Saddam Hussein dealing with the Geneva talks.

The state minister said that Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaaf Al Ahmed discussed the current visit to Kuwait by French Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevenement who also delivered a message to HH the Amir from President Francois Mitterrand.

The weekly cabinet session started with a review of messages addressed to HH the Amir from the President of Yemen Arab Republic Col. Ali Abdullah Saleh who stressed the two countries' strong relations, Al Rashed said.

The cabinet decided to set

Mitterrand's message dealt with Paris' role in boosting peace efforts and backing Arab causes. He also invited HH the Amir to visit France.

Al Rashed said that Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa informed the ministers about OPEC Secretary-General Dr Subroto's talks here on the organisation's production quota.

The cabinet expressed hopes that all OPEC member countries should shoulder their responsibility to support the organisation and maintain its strength to benefit all parties, he went on.

Preparations

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khaled Al Jassar reported on meetings with the leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party. Kuwaiti leaders and the Sudanese official discussed bilateral co-operation, Al Rashed said.

Education Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri briefed the cabinet on preparations for the new scholastic year.

The cabinet yesterday also passed a draft law re-organising the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and approved an agreement on regular air routes with Egypt, Al Rashed said.

Al Dhabar Housing Project

Contractors criticised for poor workmanship

By Lima Al Khalafawi

CONTRACTORS who built the Al Dhabar Housing Project have been severely criticised by authorities for poor workmanship and shoddy performance on the job.

Work on the project by local companies began in 1979 and was completed in 1983, according to Ali Al Fouzan, assistant director of the Design and Planning Department at the National Housing Authority (NHA).

Since 1981, there have been several complaints about cracks in the wall, broken pipes, flooding of basements, faulty plumbing and even partial collapse of houses, the official said.

Investigated

The authority checked the work of the contractors and found that the walls were not aligned, the bonding process between the wall and outer facade was defective, poor materials were used and the overall work did not conform to specifications, Al Fouzan said.

The NHA staff who supervised the project was investigated

years. The authority is responsible for the construction and safety aspects of the houses for 10 years.

Housing projects fall within the government's plan of providing Kuwaitis with adequate houses or lands and loans for construction.

The NHA has been allocated land in various areas of Kuwait such as west of Fintas and in the Qura area.

New amendments to the housing laws are intended to re-organise the distribution of the houses.

The NHA is considering increasing the land area given to individual citizens and is working to reduce the waiting period for government housing.

Loans are granted by the Savings and Credit Bank to citizens to build their houses on land allocated by the authority with the stipulation that the construction begins within a year of allocating the land and should be finished in three years.

Al Fouzan said that the NHA has hired new staff members for its supervision department to ensure that similar problems do not occur in other housing projects.

From now on, the authority will only deal with qualified and competent contractors, he said.

The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani is shown at the opening of the Women's Hospital in Doha. The opening coincided with celebrations marking the 17th anniversary of Qatar's independence. (Qatar News Agency photo)

Establishment of ties with Soviets not linked with 'Stinger crisis': Qatar

BEIRUT, Sept 4. (KUNA): The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani said his country's newly established relations with the Soviet Union are not a reaction to the crisis in relations with the United States.

"The decision to establish relations with the Soviet Union came after a careful study and lengthy contacts," Sheikh Khalifa told Al Osouli Al Arabi in an interview to be published Monday.

"This issue is not linked with the American position toward the Stinger missiles which Qatar has obtained," he emphasised.

In July, the US suspended all

talks with Qatar on economic and military co-operation because of Qatar's refusal to return land-to-air shoulder-fired Stinger missiles to the United States. The US claims that the Doha government obtained the missiles through an "illegal method."

On July 9, Qatar announced relations with the People's Republic of China and on Aug 1 the government announced relations with the Soviet Union.

Qatar is the fourth Arab Gulf country to have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

Argue

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Thousands of students unable to register

THOUSANDS of Kuwait University students were disappointed on Saturday after they were unable to register for the new academic year.

The computer registration system, introduced for the first time, failed miserably, according to

the secretary of the National Union of Kuwait Students.

Computer operators were not sufficiently trained to operate the system, he said. However, he praised the university officials' quick response and decision to stop computerised registration on Sunday and resume operations manually on Monday.

Late Saturday, Dr Abdul Mohsen Al Abdul Razzaq, the Rector of Kuwait University, chaired a meeting of the University Deans Committee which decided to suspend registration on Sunday and resume operations manually on Monday.

Computer operators were not sufficiently trained to operate the system, he said. However, he praised the university officials' quick response and decision to stop computerised registration on Sunday and resume operations manually on Monday.

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Classic examples of plagiarism

By Fathima Ahmed

BOMBAY filmmakers must have the dubious distinction of being blatant plagiarists. It wouldn't be so bad if credit was given to men/women who wrote the original films. Hindi filmmakers don't admit they look to the West for ideas, good or bad.

A classic example is Raakesh Roshan's *Khoon Bhari Maang*, a copy of the Australian soap opera *Return to Eden*.

Protagonist Aarti's murder in the lake when she is devoured by snarling crocodiles (but not killed) has been taken frame by frame from *Return to Eden*. Similarities abound in the film like Aarti's friendship with Nandini, who lets her down and deceives her; her husband's deception who plots to kill her to usurp her inheritance; Aarti's rescue by a hermit, who nurses her back to health and her transformation into Jyoti, a stunning model, becoming the avenger. These are some stark reminders of the slick Australian version.

Of course, Roshan changes the script, when not necessary, to suit the Indian milieu and applies emotional blackmail. Aarti's children, who adored their stepfather, dread his anger after her disappearance. The children's fears and tears are supposed to touch your heart, particularly when Aarti alias Jyoti attends the parent's day meeting and hears them sing a childhood melody. One almost expects them to grow up while singing the number.



Rekha plays the good, the bad and the ugly in *Khoon Bhari Maang*.

Viewers are as anxious to see the hostage drama end. It starts off after a chief minister is assassinated while speaking at a ceremony. The hitman (Raj Babbar) escapes with police in tow and hides in a house, taking a girl hostage.

And thus begins the wait and watch game as the ruthless killer commits a series of murders. The hapless policemen, led by the DSP (Nana Patekar) keep watch as politicians sabotage their plan to get re-

venge. Inside the house, the hostage, played by Pallavi Joshi, tries to rekindle some of the lost humanity in her conversations with the hit man. Nihalani has let the characters take over, allowing them to interpret complex emotions — fear, hope, and self-pity as he tackles the anguish of the victim's family.

Though Nihalani sustains interest in the hostage drama — and maintains momentum — he could not do the same with

the climax. In the final moment, we question Nihalani's needless inclusion of political corruption, and final justice meted out by the DSP, in a thriller.

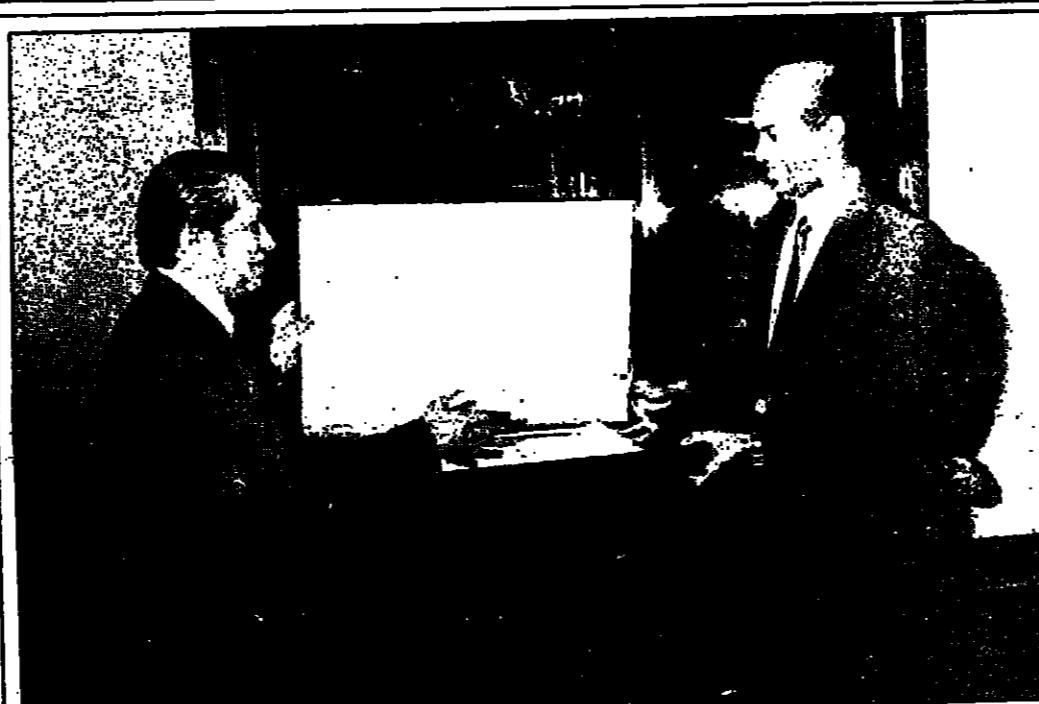
Raj Babbar excels in anti-hero roles. He received rave reviews for playing the psychopathic rapist in his first film *Insaf Ka Tarazu*. In later movies, he tried playing the romantic and did lighthearted roles, but failed to repeat the initial success. Perhaps, Babbar

is remodeling his career and plugging headlong to become the odd man out. In recent films, for example *Kanwarat*, Babbar plays roles normally reserved for villains. It doesn't seem the actor is reversing roles — he seems to be tapping his talent for emoting, strongly evident in *Andha Yudh*.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwania. Tel: 471-2900.



Raj Babbar turns to an anti-hero role in *Andha Yudh*.



• The Ambassador of Sri Lanka, A.C.H. Mohammad, who is also the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, on Saturday hosted a reception at a local hotel to say goodbye to outgoing Somalian Ambassador, Mohammad S.M. Malingur, who leaves Kuwait shortly. Above: Mohammad presenting a silver tray to Malingur.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum The museum will be open to the public every evening from 5 pm and from 9 am on Fridays.

Islamic Arts Museum

The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm, Saturday thru Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

Tarraq Rajah Museum

The museum in Jabiya houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timings are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, Sat. thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

EDUCATION

British Council The education adviser at the British Council, Mansouriya, will give a talk on "Bachelor Degrees in Britain" on Monday, Sept. 12, 6 pm. For further details tele. Mrs. Kate Barnes on 2515512/2533204.

MUSIC

Country Western Musical

The American Community Theatre is rounding up singers, dancers and musicians for their annual Country and Western musical, to be held at the end of September. Interested talents, contact Nancy Parker 5723911/ext. 2346, 5725071 (evenings) or Nola Anderson 2428366.

Sounds Great Auditions will be held on Sept. 15-17 for singers and dancers for the next Sounds Great show, to be held at the Salimiyah cinema on Oct. 19-22. For details ring Ken Winston 5740256/7 or 5758870.

Indian Ballet

Narthana, a dance troupe led by Mohiniyattam exponent Mrs. Prameela Surendran, will stage a ballet, Panchavati, and a number of Nrithasipas at its annual show, Nrithotsav, at the Indian Arts Circle, on Sept 22 at 7:00 pm. Admission will be strictly limited; for free passes, call 4337608.

East meets West

The Indian Arts Circle presents "East meets West," a musical evening, by The Fams featuring Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam, Tamil, Konkani, Bengali, Arabic and Western music. The lead vocalist will be Susan Rego. It will be held at IAC, Funaites, at 6.30 pm on Oct. 6. Entry by passes. Tel: 2409250; 4743948 or IAC — 3904817.

Beat Show

The Kuwait Goan Beat Show will be held on Oct. 14, 3.30 pm, at the IAC, Funaites. The four-hour show will feature six popular groups — City Limits, 5th Dimensions, Perfect Stranger, Stepping Stones, Next of Kin and Top Ranks. The show has been organised by the Kuwait Goans.

SOCIAL

Welcome Back/Welcome to Kuwait

The Sounds Great organisation will hold a "Welcome Back/Welcome to Kuwait" dance party at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Sept. 29 at 8 pm. Music by Top Ranks and the Juke Box Band. Twist competition, and novelty prizes. For reservations and further details ring Ken Winston or Adolf 5740256/7 or 5758870. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome.

Goan Fiesta 88

The Goan Fiesta 88 will be held on Thursday, Oct. 13, to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Young Goans Association. It will take place at the Messilah Beach Hotel's

Habiba Ballroom. Music by the Stepping Stones and Hurricane Alley. For details, call 4813740.

Varca Sporting Centre

Varca Sporting Centre will hold their third annual social evening at the Tent, SAS hotel, on Sept. 22 at 8:00 pm. Music will be provided by Top Ranks and Stepping Stones. For reservations and details, contact Roland 2430581 or James 5331940.

HOTELS

At Messilah Beach

Al Mubarakiyah restaurant, open 24 hours, offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a variety of snacks.

At the Continental

The Gardenia, open from 7 am to midnight, offers buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food for dinner on Thursdays and at lunch on Fridays.

The Darbar offers lunch buffet every Thursday. A la carte for dinner.

At the Hilton

La Patisserie is promoting Kiwi fruit. On offer are Kiwi cakes, meringue pies, cheesecakes, juices, milkshakes and sundaes. Also enjoy freshly baked cakes, pastries and a variety of cold drinks and icecream creations. Open daily from 10.30 am to 10.45 pm. The promotion ends on Sept. 16.

At the Kuwait Plaza

The Al Dallah coffee shop offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a setmenu mini-business lunch. Icecream festival at the International Food Arcade, 4 to 10 pm; light snacks also available; open 10:00 am to 11:00 pm.

Enjoy Turkish cuisine, a la carte, at the Bosphorus restaurant. Open for lunch and dinner every day except Saturday.

Experience Italian hospitality in the Riccardo restaurant with live entertainment by the Siena Duo. The Riccardo is closed for lunch on Friday.

At the Ramada

Al Bendar coffee shop offers Continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to midnight, a la carte available.

SPORTS

Sailing — KOSA Open Day

K.O.S.A. — the Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association — will hold an Open Day at Shaab Yacht Club on Friday, Sept. 9, from 1400 hours. Anyone

interested in offshore sailing are invited to attend and enjoy an afternoon of sailing followed by a BBQ. For details contact John Waters or Frank Graham on tele: 5326145 or 2468484.

IVth Winners Cup

The YMCA will hold the All Kuwait Open IVth Winners Cup cricket tournament, beginning Sept. 16. It will be played on Fridays and holidays at the Ahmad Governorate ground located behind the Computer Centre. Teams wishing to participate can contact Joe D'Sa. Tel: 3981790, 3-5 pm; 3924659. 5-8 pm. The draw will be held on Friday, Aug. 26, at 9 am at the Kuwait Lanka Restaurant, Fahad.

Feed the World

Sports Aid

Sports Aid '88 calling all runners/walkers to join the world-wide synchronised event to be held in Kuwait on Sunday, Sept. 11. Start: 6 pm. Run or walk a minimum of one km or a maximum of 10 km. For details contact 5624111 ext. 751.

PBAK Meeting

The officers of the Philipines Bowlers Association in Kuwait will hold a meeting on Monday, Sept. 5, at Far East Restaurant at 7:45 pm sharp. Topics to be discussed include forthcoming PBAK inter-commercial bowling tournament to be held on Sept. 9 at 300 Club at 9 am. Revised rules and regulations will be distributed to all team captains. Fees must be settled. All team captains are requested to attend the meeting. For details contact PBAK director Sarah Macarimbang, 4843447.

Boy's Own Club

Boy's Own Club will organise a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's birthday (Oct. 22-23). Interested teams can contact Milages 3967446 or Joe D'Souza 4813622.

SPOKES

Sailing — KOSA Open Day

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Good Morning
9.30 Tales from Around the World: The Golden Gazelle — cartoon serial
10.15 8 Harat Al Bahar: episode 9, daily serial
11.15 Al Raheb: local series, ep. 4, featuring Suad Abdullah, Gharem Al Saleh, Maryam Al Saleh; Khalid Al Nafisi, Ali Burakli
12.15 Documentary
1.00 News Summary
1.35 World News via Satellite
1.30 Summer Clubs
2.35 Araq Al Daliyah: Arabic series
3.35 Heidi: cartoon serial
4.15 Football: replay of Kuwait vs. Iran match, played for the 1980 Asian Games.
7.10 Alwan: presented by Rohat Al Farah
8.30 Wa Qatal Al Arab: daily series
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Sakha Tadawar: daily serial
10.50 Adam wa Hawa: Arabic feature film, starring: Hussein Sadiq, Laila Murad, Ismael Yaseen, Mary



Laila Murad stars in tonight's Arabic feature film, *Adam wa Hawa*, 10.50 pm on KTV 1.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Gitar: cartoons
6.30 The Craft of the Weaver: "Rugs." Faye Morgan explains the working of a loom and Oates examines the colour and texture of rugs.
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news and

regional events.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "Discipline." After an argument with a woman, Charles cuts himself off from them.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Miami Vice: "Down for the Count." Part 2. The Squad step up efforts after a police informer is killed by the mob.
9.40 Private Benjamin: "For the Love of Judy." Judy receives unwelcome attention from a soldier and decides to take action against him.
10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Hitchcock returns with another spine-chilling tale.
10.30 The Equalizer: "Christmas Presence." A six-year-old child's desperate plea for help spoils McCall's plans to spend a quiet Christmas. Starring: Edward Woodward.
11.30 News summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



The Miami Vice squad steps up efforts to solve a case, 8.40 pm on KTV 2 tonight.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsed
30 Religious Service
0100 News Summary followed by From Raj to Rajiv
45 Without Strings (ex 26th)
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Peebles' Choice
30 Scenes in Action
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Good Books
30 Anything Goes
0400 Newsdesk
30 5th and 12th: Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Sportsword
0500 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 The Third Policeman (ex 26th T. S. Eliot Poems)
1500 Radio Newsred
15 The Stuarts (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
0100 World Today
09 Financial News
40 Reflections
45 Waveguide
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 News Notebook
45 Recordings of the Week
0600 The Stuarts (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 The Cross and the Crescent (ex 26th Every Poem an Euphemism)
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 5th and 12th: Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Malgudi Days
30 Anything Goes
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Good Books
30 Financial News followed by Sports
45 Peebles' Choice (ex 19th and 26th Sports Roundup)
1200 Newsdesk
30 5th and 12th: Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Sportsword
45 (19th and 26th only) Anything Goes
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 The Third Policeman (ex 26th T. S. Eliot Poems)
1500 Radio Newsred
15 The Stuarts (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
45 English Songsmiths (ex 19th)
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 5th and 12th: Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Whither Wisdom?; 19th and 26th Americans in Europe
30 Lyrics and Lyricists (ex 5th The A-Z of Hollywood)
45 The World Today
1700 World News
09 Commentary
15 Beethoven (ex 19th and 26th New Music)
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsdesk
30 Multitrack 1: Top 20 (ex 5th Prodigy Concert)
1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary (ex 5th Prom could)
39 Stock Market Report
45 Peebles' Choice (ex 19th and 26th Sportsword)
2000 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

FM Services

0800 Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Latin American Hour
1800 Pops
1900 Helter Skelter
2000 Pops
2100 News
2145 Pops
2300 Jazz Sound
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Music
0260 Closedown

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behirat Qasid
1915 Programmatic Preview
1920 Songs
19

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHENEVER you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth — Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Scottish writer (1859-1930).

Sino-Soviet talks

Progress, but no breakthrough

By Guy Dimmore

BEIJING (Reuter): Sino-Soviet talks this week on Kampuchea made progress but apparently no breakthrough in settling the 10-year-old conflict or normalising relations between Beijing and Moscow, diplomats said on Friday.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said shortly before leaving Beijing that he was very satisfied with the week-long negotiations.

For the Chinese, Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei said the meetings were significant.

Both sides said the unprecedented talks helped mutual understanding but that despite finding common ground, differences remained.

Sources close to China pressed the Soviet Union to get its ally Vietnam out of Kampuchea, while Moscow said China's support for the Khmer Rouge guerrillas was an obstacle to an early withdrawal.

Discuss

The only concrete result of the talks disclosed to reporters was the intention of Soviet and Chinese foreign ministers to discuss Kampuchea when they hold their annual meeting at the United Nations in New York later this month.

A Soviet source said Rogachev skipped a Thursday banquet hosted for him by the Soviet embassy for a last round of unscheduled talks with Tian. A tired-looking Rogachev told reporters he wanted to sleep and had worked until 5.30 am.

"Yes, there was some progress but no breakthrough," a Western diplomat commented after analysing what he described as positive but cautious statements made by both sides.

A Vietnamese diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said the talks were the beginning of a Sino-Soviet rapprochement but there were still many differences.

"We are optimistic. The process for a Kampuchean settlement has been set in motion," he commented.

The official repeated Vietnam's position that it would

withdraw its troops from Kampuchea in 1990. If a political settlement was reached then Hanoi could pull out in 1989.

Rogachev said he hoped Vietnam would complete its withdrawal next year. He said Moscow was in regular contact with the Vietnamese but declined to comment on how the Soviet Union would approach its ally.

Vietnam, which is heavily dependent on Soviet military and financial aid, invaded Kampuchea in 1978 to oust the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge which stand accused of genocide during their four-year rule.

Rogachev said Moscow proposed that Indonesia hold as soon as possible "a second bogor" — a reference to July's unprecedented meeting of the four warring Kampuchean factions and Vietnam.

The Vietnamese diplomat said Hanoi favoured a second meeting.

The next logical step is a meeting between the Soviets and Vietnam," an Asian diplomat said. "They will not just put pressure on Vietnam, which is a very independent minded country, but also use encouragement."

Progress

"Progress was made but enough to warrant a joint communiqué or a summit," another Asian diplomat commented.

China has rebuffed several offers of a summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, saying Moscow must first "urge" Vietnam to withdraw its estimated 100,000 troops from Kampuchea.

Sino-Soviet trade and cultural exchanges have grown rapidly in recent years but relations between the ruling communist parties have not been normalised since the rift of 1960s.

The last top-level Sino-Soviet summit was in 1959 when Mao Tse-Tung met Nikita Khrushchev.

A Soviet source said there was "a good chance" that Chinese and Soviet foreign ministers would meet outside the United Nations next year to prepare a summit between Gorbachev and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang.

Brazil's constitution may affect economy

By Roger Atwood

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuter): Lawmakers hailed Brazil's new constitution, approved on Friday, as a giant step towards consolidating democracy, but political analysts said it could have a dire effect on the economy.

Members of the 559-member constituent assembly wept with joy and joined hands to sing the national anthem as they finished the boldly reformist new constitution.

They said the new charter would change the face of Brazil and help consolidate its young democracy after the country emerged from 21 years of military rule in 1985.

"Brazil, with a new constitution, is a new country. The end of the assembly's work also marks the end of the political transition (to democracy)," assembly President Ulysses Guimaraes said in an emotion-charged speech.

But amid the euphoria, questions remained about the constitution's effects on Brazil's economy once the assembly promulgates it and puts it into effect on Sept 23 after 19 months of often harsh debate.

Controversial

One of its most controversial clauses includes a 12 per cent cap on real annual interest rates and makes creditors who charge more than that punishable for "the crime of usury."

"Such rates are now around 20 percent, though nominal interest rates on an annual basis are topping 1,000 per cent."

"If the interest rate limit is not amended in some way, it will cause hyper-inflation and could wreck the economy," said prominent political scientist Helio Jaguaribe.

"The assembly too often enacted well-intentioned measures without taking into account their real effect on the economy," Jaguaribe said.

Among the reform clauses in

Attention

But the 12 per cent limit on interest rates won the most attention, and the most criticism, from political commentators and officials of President Jose Sarney's government.

Finance Minister Mailson Nobre said the limit could make it harder for Brazil, burdened with a \$121 billion foreign debt, to win new loans from overseas creditors.

But he admitted that the interest rate cap's full effect on the economy would be impossible to gauge until congress, now in recess as its members wrote the new constitution, worked out its details in general legislation.

The influential Rio daily O Globo accused lawmakers of "cheap demagoguery" by enacting the 12 percent limit, saying in an editorial that it would "make all Brazil suffer."

The assembly also voted to include a sweeping debt amnesty for thousands of small borrowers who took out loans during two successive anti-inflation drives in 1986 and 1987.

Those borrowers saw their financial fortunes ruined as inflation and interest rates soared to an annualised rate of about 700 per cent early this year.

Sarney had warned the lawmakers that the amnesty would cost the already-strapped treasury about \$3 billion, and pleaded with them to reject it.

Political commentators said the amnesty would damage the economy by rewarding unwise investors, and accused assembly members of enacting the amnesty as a political sop to voters before municipal elections in November.

the new constitution is one reducing the voting age to 16, another giving workers the right to a six-hour work day, and one barring all press and artistic censorship.

It also extends the right to strike to all workers, including those in essential services like doctors and electrical workers.

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Rains simply swept everything over the edge

Sudan in total mess after flood disaster

By Philip Williams

water. At least 220 were injured. The toll continues to rise.

But the floods are only the last straw of a nationwide mess that is feeding growing anger and desperation among normally phlegmatic Sudanese, incredulous at the chaos which surrounds them.

For years Sudan has been wracked by a civil war — one of Africa's most bitter — between the south's black, largely Christian peoples and the north's Arab Muslims.

The drought had spread famine or near famine throughout the land.

The country was broke. Power, telephone and communications systems were on the brink of collapse. Railways were at a standstill. Offices and factories worked only half a day because there was no public transportation.

Sudan Airways couldn't meet its scheduled flight days, let alone scheduled flight times.

The foreign debt was an impossible \$5.2 billion. If Sudan tried, which it has not, it could not meet repayments, which would be more than 150 per cent of its annual foreign exchange earnings.

More than 70 people died, dozens of them electrocuted as power lines collapsed into the

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water. At least 220 were injured. The toll continues to rise.

Sadiq Al Mahdi

currency was driving the value of the Sudanese pound down daily.

Factories were grinding to a halt for want of machine parts.

"This disaster could not have

at a worse time," said a senior aid worker.

"It has exposed how

completely inadequate the

government structure is."

The beleaguered Sudanese

government complained bitterly

about Western coverage of the

crisis and blamed foreign media

for allegations of corruption and

favouritism in its handling of the

food crisis.

But Prime Minister Sadiq Al

Mahdi and his colleagues have been attacked at least as hard by the country's own, startlingly independent Arabic newspapers.

Now the city is faced with a massive health headache. Cholera, typhus and measles stalk 700,000 already emaciated black refugees who fled civil war fighting in the south for two dozen squall shanty towns fringing Muslim, Arabic-speaking

Khartoum.

Huge swaths of the northern suburbs were turned into lakes of fetid water mixed with raw sewage from shattered pipes, all cooked to a festering, tepid stew by the sun.

Paralysis

After 10 days of near-complete paralysis, the government and Army-run relief effort began to trickle out help, first in the better-off suburban areas and then, eventually, to the desperate southern shanty dwellers. Public anger at the tardiness of the emergency operation was intense.

Stones were hurled at Sadiq Al

Sadiq Al Mahdi

country to help the Army

improved climate in East-West relations and the decision

of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to cut Soviet losses and withdraw.

When the time was right and

nations saw their best interests

the settlement of regional conflict.

The UN was ready with a

plan that had been under

preparation for years.

The problem is that members,

especially the United States, do

not pay their back contributions.

The organization is owed

more than \$600 million in

arrears. The United States alone

owes more than \$467 million to

the regular budget and another

\$70 million to peacekeeping

operations.

"Funding is a huge problem,"

UN spokesman Francois

Giuliani told reporters in Geneva

this week. He said the organization

was going broke and being

forced to use the money intended

for October salaries to

fund UN peacekeeping operations.

Encouraging

But he admitted he was

troubled by the slow pace and

he had been very busy with

the UN peacekeeping mission in

Iran-Iraq.

Nonetheless, the UN score

card has been encouraging.

After a year of resisting a UN

peace plan, resolution 598, Iran

abruptly accepted it and sought

an immediate ceasefire. Separate

talks with Iran and Iraq opened

in New York July 18 on setting

up a ceasefire.

On Aug 8, Perez de

Cuellar departed

Thursday for Lisbon after

appointing Sweden's ambas-

sador to the United Nations in

<div data-bbox="494 692 603 7

One of the most polluted cities of Asia Taipei choking on its own prosperity

By Andrew Quinn

TAIPEI, (Reuters): Taipei, Asia's latest boomtown, is choking on its own prosperity.

The capital of Taiwan is disappearing into a cloud of dark exhaust fumes as wealthy residents, who have helped turn the island into the world's 13th-ranked trading nation, join a mad rush to buy cars.

Traffic density in Taipei is 10 times that of the US traffic blackspot, Los Angeles, and the government predicts the number of cars in the city will double over the next 10 years.

The problem has become a political time bomb as frustrated residents blame the Nationalist government for the state of the city, among the most polluted in Asia.

"Any one who can figure out a way to fix Taipei's traffic should be made president," one Taipei taxi driver raged as his car idled in the rush-hour.

Taipei, with a population of 2.5 million, has about 360,000 cars and trucks competing for road space with almost half a million motorcycles.

Over the past 20 years, Taipei has changed from a peaceful backwater into a hub of international trade.

Showcase

But it is a poor showcase for a country of 20 million people which has amassed more than 70 billion US dollars in foreign exchange reserves, the world's second largest after those of Japan.

Hemmed in by hills that trap the heat and pollution, it boasts few architectural attractions. Its grey concrete buildings are uniformly low-rise because of the constant risk of earthquakes. There are few parks or open spaces.

The Nationalist government set up its headquarters in Taipei in 1949 after fleeing from China. It became a pleasantly planted with flowering shrubs and criss-crossed by broad avenues shaded by trees.

But explosive economic growth in the 1960s and '70s turned Taipei into a warren of small alleys filled haphazardly.

The capital of Taiwan is disappearing into a cloud of dark exhaust fumes as the wealthy residents of this Asian boomtown join a mad rush to buy cars.

with houses, factories, shops and restaurants.

Modern office blocks, huge department stores and fashionable restaurants — built on land that only a few years ago was planted with rice — are just starting to change the character of the city.

But traffic remains a stubborn problem. Narrow lanes, perfect for bicycles, rickshaws and ox-carts, are now jammed by parked cars.

"Nobody ever expected that Taipei would become such a rich place so quickly," said Peng Chin-Yuan, director of the National Federation of Professional Drivers.

"In the short-term, the government has no plan at all."

Motorcycle riders scatter pedestrians by driving on the sidewalks. More than 40,000 taxis jostle and shove like race-

horses in a fight for passengers. Taipei's battered public buses career through red lights with impunity.

City planners and government officials throw up their hands in despair at the scope of the problem.

"This is a democratic country. We just cannot tell people not to buy cars," said C. J. Chang, director of the Institute of Transportation at Taiwan's Ministry of Communications.

"The traffic problem is inevitable."

Plans have been made for a modern subway and elevated train network that will whisk Taipei commuters from one stop to another in air-conditioned comfort. But work on the project forecast to cost the equivalent of nine billion US dollars, is not due to start until 1990.

In a belated response to rising public anger, the Nationalists last month assigned one of their brightest young stars to the post of city mayor.

Wu Poh-Hsiung immediately shredded plans to add another 2,000 parking spaces in downtown areas, saying at least 80,000 more spaces were needed.

He employed a small army of traffic wardens to slap parking tickets on cars which routinely double and triple park on Taipei's busiest roads.

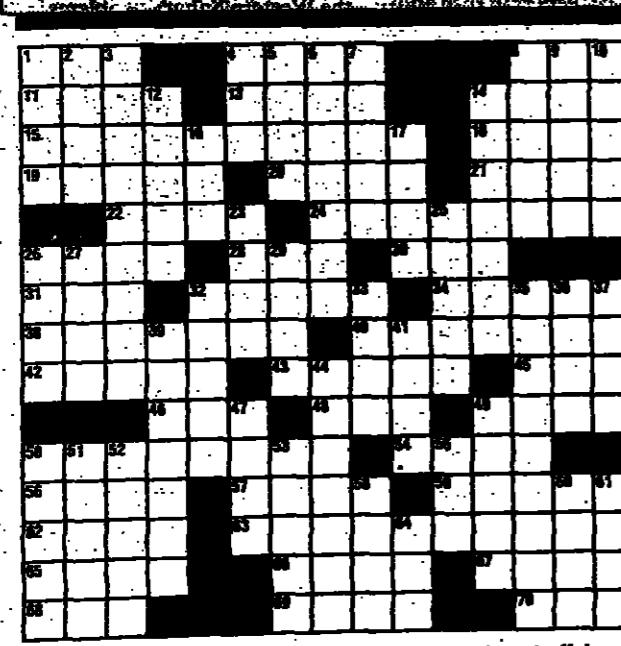
Peng's federation has organised brigades of volunteer off-duty taxi drivers who take to the streets armed with only a whistle during rush hours. Surprisingly, people seem to obey the directions of the orange-hatted volunteers.

"Everyone wants the traffic situation to improve, but nobody wanted to take the first step," Peng said.



Taipei's crowded roadways are going to get worse before they get better. The traffic density in the city is ten times greater than Los Angeles.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 List ender
4 Ruminant
8 New Deal agcy.
11 Buenos
13 "Rule Britannia"
14 False god
15 Resolute
18 Isle of exile
19 City in S Turkey
20 Proboscis
21 Aft
22 Italia's major city
24 Can be endured
26 Mosel feeds
28 Length measure
30 One kind of race
31 Grampus
32 Fills to repletion
34 Seed coat
38 Acute
40 Son of Agamemnon
42 Dogie catcher
43 Very bitter
45 Feminine suffix
46 E.B. White's Charlotte, for one
48 Luminox
49 Hops klin
50 Embarrassed
54 Biblical land
56 Discomfort
57 Strawberry's turf
59 Facing the pitcher
62 Heraldic wreath
63 Game for ringers
65 Social events
66 Linden tree
67 Post Teasdale, for short
68 Concorde, for short
69 Pierre's State: Abbr.

DOWN
1 Icelandic spic
2 Made duplicate scores
3 Falls
4 Grand Coulee, for one
5 Green land
6 Exalt
7 Dodge great
8 Biblical spy
9 Conspiracy
10 Irish county
12 Spanish gentleman
14 Scops
16 Aries
17 Explosives
23 Amo, —, amat
25 Assessed
26 Blemish

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

NEVER	ASPI'S	EVEL
ORONO	SHIP	MIRRO
VICTOR	HUGO	ICON
ACIE	MEET	TALESE
SHED	BEERBOHM	
NOUH	TOTS	RHEA
ONIER	ARRAS	DAST
NAVY	NAIL	NISH
AROMATIC	NOTRE	
I LET	SONE	
KAHILL	SHOE	SET
ABEL	OSCAR	WILDE
LORE	PEAR	ACAGE
EWIER	FARP	YEMEN

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
SHIELD YOUR TENACE

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ K 6 2
♥ Q 10 7 3
♦ 7 5 4
♣ K 3
WEST **EAST**
♦ A Q 10 9 7 5 ♠ J 8 4 3
♥ 5 ♠ J
♦ K 10 3 ♠ J 9 8 2
♣ 10 9 7 ♠ Q 8 5 4

SOUTH
♦ Void
♥ A K 9 8 6 4 2
♦ A Q 6
♣ A 6 2

The bidding:
West North East South
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ 5 ♠
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

If a play you would dearly like to make rates to fail because of the bidding or lead, see if there are any options available. South made good use of that principle to land a difficult game.

With the vulnerability in his favor, East wasted no time in making it as difficult as possible for his opponents to enter the auction by boosting his partner's weak two-bid to game. However, South was just too strong to be kept out of the

auction. North realized that his partner was bidding under pressure, so he wisely stayed out of the auction.

West led the ten of clubs, and declarer was delighted with his prospects. In the light of the opening lead, it was probable that the club finesse would fail, but the bidding suggested that the diamond finesse would succeed. Another implication of the opening lead was that West held the ace of spades, so declarer found a way to ensure his contract even if the diamond finesse were doomed to failure.

The opening lead was ducked all around, and the club continuation was won in dummy. After ruffing a spade, declarer led a trump to the queen, collecting both outstanding trumps, and ruffed another spade. He completed his groundwork by cashing the ace of clubs, then crossed to the table with a trump to lead the king of spades. When East played low, declarer did not ruff, but discarded a diamond instead.

That simple maneuver left West on lead with a choice of losing options. Any black card would allow declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the queen of diamonds from hand; and a diamond would be into declarer's major tenace, assuring no loser in that suit.

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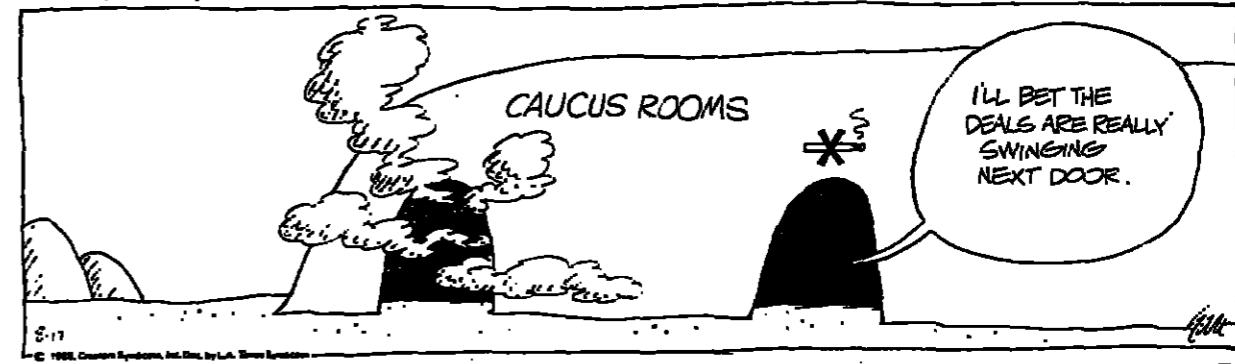
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THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Do not blame others for what is really your fault, and well you know it. You should try to make yourself a little more approachable. Do not ask for something you know you have not earned. Be confident.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Now is the time to take the initiative but make sure you have made all the necessary preparations. Show your sympathy for a friend who is having a hard time. Try not to attract undue attention to yourself. Be sincere.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will find it easier to maintain harmony with your partner. Your sweet tooth should not be allowed to predominate. You would do well to exercise a little more restraint. Be tolerant.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You will be a little unsure of

yourself initially but will soon

regain your old composure. You

will be able to do something you

very much enjoy doing. Make sure

you look where you are going. Be

generous.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will be in a far better mood.

You should make sure that you do

not just gloss over the difficulties.

Give others credit for what they

have done. Be sensible.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will tend to feel a little

nervous but you will still be able to

do what has to be done. Do not try

to steal the credit for what someone

else has done. You should not wait

too long before responding to an

offer or proposal. Be tolerant.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should not allow some personal matter to become too predominant. Do not permit another person's bad mood to upset you. Try to ensure that you get good value for money. Be moderate.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You are rather liable to get into a muddle and should take countermeasures. Make sure you do not break any speed limits and look behind you. Do not expect others to look after you. Be sincere.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will find it easier to maintain harmony with your partner. Your sweet tooth should not be allowed to predominate. You would do well to exercise a little more restraint. Be tolerant.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You will be a little unsure of

yourself initially but will soon

regain your old composure. You

will be able to do something you

very much enjoy doing. Make sure

you look where you are going. Be

generous.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will be in a far better mood.

You should make sure that you do

not just gloss over the difficulties.

Give others credit for what they

have done. Be sensible.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will tend to feel a little

nervous but you will still be able to

do what has to be done. Do not try

to steal the credit for what someone

else has done. You should not wait

too long before responding to an

offer or proposal. Be tolerant.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

The difficulties are somewhat

greater than you anticipated but

nothing you cannot cope with. You

should not rely too much on your

charm and persuasion. Do not

allow your affairs to get too far into

By Victor Davis

CINEMA-OWNERS, battered by a run of historical romance flops, once cabled Hollywood studios: Send no more movies where the men wear lace cuffs and write with quill pens.

One film location in the shadow of Windsor Castle recently Lord Lew Grade set out to defy this show business taboo.

His secret weapon is an 87-year-old woman who has a taste for gallon-sized hats, false eyelashes, the colour pink, glamour and gossip.

She also looks severely upon those she deems to be 'beige persons' — ie colourless.

A large number of well-known British actors are praying that they will not qualify for this latter version of damnation when Miss Barbara Cartland, novelist and national monument, visits them.

They are currently cavorting on the set at Windsor Great Park — by kind permission of the Queen herself — sporting lace cuffs and quills in Lord Grade's film of Miss Cartland's Carolean epic *Dangerous Love*.

It is an amazing fact that although the indefatigable Miss Cartland has written 450 romantic novels, nobody thought to turn any into films before Lord Lew decided to be that there was an audience out there hungering for dastardly *villains* and milk-white maidens.

Shrewd Lew was proved right last year.

His £4 million TV movie of a Cartland Regency swashbuckler *Hazard of Hearts* — originally entitled *Cupid Rides Pillion* 40 years ago — came second on TV viewing charts in America on *Bingo Day* and is a British video best-seller prior to a BBC airing.

Now he has put £6 million into *Dangerous Love* and optioned all 450 of her other romances.

Deal

Miss Cartland goes with the deal. It is her cheerful intention to interfere with production as much as possible.

Happily she is unlikely to find any 'beige' persons on the set of *Dangerous Love*.

There is Sir John Mills, a convincingly Imperial Red and Navy blue in his time, Oliver Reed (definitely wine-coloured) and Christopher Cazenove (Old Etonian, so the

Queen of romance makes her grand screen entrance

colour of his tie at very least is all right). The others, from a sort of Green Room hall of fame, include Michael York, Claire Bloom, Emma Samms and Gordon Jackson (playing a groom, so he's still *Downstairs*).

Lysette Anthony plays the latest rosy, peachy and creamy Cartland heroine.

'Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful!' trills the encircled authoress from her stately home, Camfield Place, Hatfield, Herts (pronounced hearts) reviewing the cast list.

'Ah, Lysette now, is very pretty, with big eyes and the sort of face you can do things with,' she said in breathless, girlish surges of conversation.

She lowered her voice. 'I don't see why I shouldn't tell you. In the first film, the women's dresses were too high.'

'They don't read their history books, you see. They never do.'

'Dangerous Love is set in Charles II's time and he demands decolletage. So I've told them that, whatever happens, I want my low dresses.'

Commented Emma Samms on the set: 'I had a real shock when I saw the plunge.'

'Still, as I'm playing King Charles's mistress, I suppose it's called for. But they are certainly the lowest I've ever worn.'

'We wouldn't dare go as far in *Dynasty*.

Lysette Anthony, gorgeously arrayed in blue, with golden ringlets, said: 'The



Barbara Cartland: 'It is her cheerful intention to interfere with production as much as possible'.

whole thing is such a hoot.

'I was summoned to tea with Miss Cartland to see if I passed muster. She whipped off my hat and said: "Let's have a good look at you, dear."

'Afterwards, she sent me a



Emma Samms and Michael York in a scene from the film.

letter hailing me as the most classical virgin in all the world.'

'I just had to show my boy friend. Actually, I think I look like an anemic cocker spaniel.'

Despite Barbara Cartland's massive sales — 500 million to date — I could find only one cast member who had actually read one of her romances, a fact they won't be keen to reveal when she visits.

'I read just one, when I was 14,' recalled Miss Anthony.

Oliver Reed grunted: 'With all due respect, I don't think she's quite my cup of tea.'

Michael York, resplendent as the king, said: 'I must confess I approached the project slightly scornful of the books, but I was won over by the script.'

And if the cast don't appreciate her work, others do. The French recently gave her a medal and although she's short of honours in England she gets 50,000 fan letters a year.

They will all receive gracious replies.

AIDS puts a dampener on casual sex

By Jilly Weber

IN the past, casual sex has definitely been IN. Now, with the threat of AIDS it is certainly OUT.

But the makers of the new movie *Casual Sex?* will no doubt be hoping that it is about to make a big comeback ... if only on the screen.

And with sexy co-stars Stacey, played by Lea Thompson and Melissa played by Victoria Jackson, they are in with a good chance.

The movie is set against the plush surroundings of an exclusive health resort. Suddenly Stacey and Melissa are forced to confront the ever-changing social and sexual attitudes of the 1980's.

And not surprisingly it is set in Hollywood — home not only of movies but also of AIDS.

The action sees Melissa and Stacey confronted by several men who add to their bewilderment about modern dating and romance.

Vinny played by Andrew Dice Clay, a brawny pick up artist, Nick, played by Stephen Shellen, a songwriter dreaming of fame and wealth, Matthew (Peter Dvorsky), a pompous psychologist and Jamie played by Jerry Levine, the health club's exercise instructor, are the men they have to face.

Off screen, however, the actors saw their roles somewhat differently.

The film's director Genevieve Robert says: 'It is a comedy. But it is a comedy that comes from human situations. We deal with real problems that 25-year-old women have to deal with these days, being single and the fact that sex now has all kinds of repercussions.'

Victoria Jackson says that the film offers a clear message of hope for men and women wondering how to find the perfect mate.

She explains: 'Don't force it. Be open to life and the right chemistry will happen — almost by accident.'

The movie began its life as a play written by Judy Toll and Wendy Goldman. Then Goldman appeared in a small role in *Ghost-busters* and so impressed film-maker Ivan Reitman and his wife Genevieve Robert that Genevieve, asked to direct the film of the play as her first picture length movie.

Robert believes *Casual Sex?* is the first major film to deal directly with young adults and the dangers of casual sex.

She adds: 'I don't think any teen film can be made in the future that plays fast and loose with sex. AIDS is just too overwhelming, too deadly a problem of anyone in our business not to face responsibly.'

That's something the film's stunning star Lea Thompson certainly agrees with.

She says of the film: 'It shows that despite all of the confusion and the misunderstanding, love will survive in the end.'



Glenn Close (left) in a scene from *Fatal Attraction*.

After Fatal Attraction, a dangerous liaison

By Barbara Bright

PARIS. (Reuters) — Actress Glenn Close, whose knife-wielding vengeance as the woman spurned appalled millions in *Fatal Attraction*, has turned to subtler sexual revenge as the star of an erotic 18th century French novel being filmed near Paris.

Close says she is sure reviewers will compare her role as the wicked Marquise de Merteuil in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* with that of the psychotic New York career woman which last year won her a fourth Academy Award nomination as best actress.

Merteuil is the pivotal character in the tale of aristocratic seduction and perversion by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, author of the literary classic that was revived on its publication in 1782 but rediscovered and widely praised in this century.

Historians say the story dealt with real people among the aristocracy in Granoble.

'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' has recently been revived as a

hit stage play on three continents, and a rival film directed by Czechoslovak Milos Forman of *Amadeus* fame, is also in the works.

In the story, Merteuil dares her former lover the Vicomte de Walmont, played by American actor-director John Malkovich, to seduce a virtuous married woman in a devious revenge on a lover who has jilted her.

Close read the novel 10 years ago when she was working as an actress on the New York stage, before her film debut in *Garp* and her widely-praised role in *The Big Chill*.

"It scared me," she said in an interview outside of the Versailles chateau that was the home of one of Louis XIV's mistresses, Madame du Barry.

The white-stone palace, now the Versailles Chamber of Commerce, is one of a dozen 18th century chateaux whose gilded rooms and sweeping gardens serve as backdrop for the rick costume drama.

"It scared me," she repeated, "because of the psychological terror of manipulation."

But she found Merteuil very different from her character in *Fatal Attraction*, Alex Forrest, a target of feminists in the United States who complained the film gave the impression single career women were psychotic.

"They both end up being destructive, but Alex Forrest was out of control. Merteuil was always in control. She decided at an early age she wasn't going to be manipulated, that she'd be the manipulator. She's absolutely brilliant."

Of her pairing with Malkovich, himself an Academy award nominee for *The French Tragedy* and *Places in the Heart*, Close said she believes critics will find them "magnetic".

"If they don't, we're doing something wrong," she said.



Close in 18th century costume for her new film *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*.

Is Meryl Streep suffering from overdrive?

Alan Stanbrook maintains that the two-time Oscar winner has lost the artful simplicity of her earlier work, in her quest for meatier roles.

chance to practice her Strine and wear make-up, it may even, perhaps, win her another Oscar nomination.

You see, Meryl Streep has joined the monstre sacre club — along with Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Anne Bancroft, all actresses who, given half a chance, roar through their roles in overdrive.

They were always so grand that nobody had the nerve to tell them to slow down, to pitch it a little lower and quieter.

>Contact

Meryl Streep has long lost contact with the small, telling gesture. You could see them in embryo in *The Deadliest Season* and within a year of that film they were all over the cinema screens in a sudden puff of eye-catching



Streep plays a down-and-out in *Ironweed*.

cameo roles: in *The Seduction of Joe Tynan* (as a political groupie), in *Manhattan* (as Woody Allen's lesbian ex-wife) and in *The Deer Hunter* (as the 'love interest', a potentially thankless assignment which she transformed into a role matching Robert De Niro's in *Stevie* and *Ironweed*).

This phase of her career reached its peak with Kramer vs.

Kramer and *The French Lieutenant's Woman* — two hypnotic performances built up of tiny, expressive gestures.

You could often tell what the character was thinking simply by the way she stood or sat. It was a new type of realistic acting and deservedly won her her first Oscar (a supporting one) for Kramer vs. Kramer.

It all went wrong after that. In *Steel* of the Night and the more recent *Hearthburn* she was no longer an actress but a star. In the old days, you could have imagined Joan or Bette or Olivia de Havilland in the parts.

But now, Western movies

account for only 25 per cent of the market," he said. "If the situation continues to deteriorate, it will be very difficult for us to stay in business."

Statistics compiled by Golden Harvest, a local film producer, show Hong Kong residents are the world's greatest moviegoers. On average, they attend the movies once a month, compared with fewer than five times a year for Americans.

Ranks

Hong Kong theatres last year took in \$1.2 billion at the box office, and locally produced films accounted for 75 per cent of that figure.

Currently, only 15 out of 110 cinemas in Hong Kong now regularly show foreign movies.

Hong Kong now ranks third in the world in movie production, behind the United States

and India. Last year 105 Hong Kong-made films were released, compared with about 300 US-made films in the same period.

In addition, the quality of Hong Kong's movies has shown significant improvement over the old 'fists-and-kicks' flicks.

"A Chinese ghost story," produced by the film workshop, won the special jury prize and the Coup de Coeur in the Avoriaz festival in France in January, and was named best film at the Fantasporto festival in Portugal the following month.

The movie is also featured in this year's new director/new films series at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Popularity

All of this new respectability, however, probably owes a debt to those 'fists-and-kicks' movies of the 1970s and to the late *Kung-Fu* star Bruce Lee, who helped bring attention to Hong Kong movies.

"It was Bruce Lee who made Hong Kong movies well known to the world," said Russell Cawthorne of *Golden Harvest*. "Hong Kong has excelled in action movies since then."

Action movies still are popular all across Asia and remain a staple in Hong Kong's film industry. But local artists are also producing a wide variety of movies, led by a group of 'new wave' directors

who have been trained abroad. These films have been steadily gaining in popularity and have made a noticeable dent in the box-office take of US-made films.

Rambo: First Blood Part II was the top-grossing foreign movie ever shown in Hong Kong, pulling in \$3.17 million over a 57-day period in 1985. In 1978, *Star Wars* brought in only \$351,282 while *The Empire Strikes Back* in 1980 earned \$735,897. *E.T.* earned \$2.15 million in 1983.

But the largest-grossing local film in Hong Kong was the locally produced *Eighth Happiness*, a family comedy about three brothers finding new love on the wrong telephone lines as a result of a breakdown in the phone system. It grossed \$4.7 million in February, during the Chinese new year period, a key movie-going period similar to Christmas and the summer holiday period in the United States.

"The problem with Hong Kong movies is that they're not as good as Hollywood movies," says Shu-ke, a film critic. "Hong Kong movies are not as good as Hollywood movies, but they're not as bad as Hollywood movies."

"Hong Kong movies are better than many Hollywood class

ones, but there is a very long way to go to beat class A blockbusters," Shu-ke said.

The US film industry has made some adjustments in its marketing strategy in Hong Kong, as a response to the growing interest in local productions.

"Rather than flooding the Hong Kong market with all kinds of American movies, Hollywood uses the practice of going narrow, which means releasing only those films likely to appeal to local moviegoers in reduced number of theatres."

Also, Hong Kong does not yet have the technology to duplicate Hollywood's more lavish productions, such as the *Star Wars* movies, so those US films are likely to make money, though not as much as can be made.

Meryl Streep: in the same class as Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Anne Bancroft

Breaking a bastion of male supremacy

Modern queen in world's oldest monarchy

DENMARK's reigning Queen Margrethe II is a highly contemporary representative of the world's oldest monarchy with ancestral links stretching back 1,000 years.

Queen Margrethe acceded to the throne in 1972, when at the age of 31 — following new rules laid down in 1953 concerning female succession — she succeeded her late father King Frederik IX. With the sole exception of Queen Margrethe I (1375-1412), all prior monarchs had been male.

That a pretty and talented young princess should break with the 560-year-old tradition of male supremacy in the Danish monarchy was felt by the vast majority of the Danish people as a refreshing inauguration of a new era — with equal rights for men and women.

Quite apart from all the goodwill surrounding her accession to the throne, Queen Margrethe has succeeded in distinguishing herself as an active and vital person in today's Denmark; she combines a pronounced ability to live up to the duties of her high office with an understanding of what motivates the ordinary citizen.

Thanks to these qualities, Queen Margrethe on several occasions has won first place, when Gallup opinion polls had the task of finding the most popular Dame.

Distinguished

Winning such a distinguished place in the mind of the ordinary Dane owes much — among many other qualities — to the deeply committed New Year speeches that Queen Margrethe holds each year on radio and television, and in which she often has appealed for compassion and goodwill towards the weaker in society.

Also contributing to the fondness felt towards Queen Margrethe are her obviously creative and artistic talents, which have found particular



Her Majesty, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. Her accession to the throne broke a 560-year-old tradition of male supremacy in the Danish monarchy.



Queen Margrethe, with Prince Henrik (right) and their two sons.

Queen Ingrid. The event occurred just one week after the Germans had occupied Denmark, and the birth of the princess was seen by many Danes as a ray of light in the dark.

During one of her many tours of study abroad, Princess Margrethe met in London the young French Count Henri de Laborde de Monpezat, who was at the time attached to the French embassy there, and, as the Queen declared in a later television interview, it was love at first sight. "The horizon was all flame," she said and they were married in Copenhagen in 1967.

The royal couple have two sons, Crown Prince Frederik (the heir to the throne), born in 1968, and Prince Joachim, born in 1969.

The Queen's days are filled

with the strenuous duties of her position. She presides over meetings of Council of State, where all legislation is put forward. Beyond this her tasks are largely of a representative nature. She receives new ambassadors and foreign heads of state visiting Denmark, and together with Prince Henrik she undertakes official visits to other countries, as far as Australia.

The royal family's official residence in Copenhagen is the Amalienborg Palace — alternating during the summer months with Fredensborg Palace in North Zealand and Marselisborg in Aarhus. Queen Ingrid's summer residence is Grasten Palace in South Jutland. The royal couple often sail during the summertime in the royal yacht Dannebrog.



Selling soap for over six decades: (left to right) Clara Bow, Ginger Rogers, Barbara Stanwyck, Elizabeth Taylor, Joan Collins and Raquel Welch

Changing image of the ideal soap star

For the last sixty years, the makers of Lux soap have linked the mass market product to the screen goddesses of the day. But during those six decades advertisers have radically altered their perceptions of women: instead of the 'guilt-ridden, humourless, male-dominated' woman of the 20's we now have the 80's woman — 'narcissistic with a streak of exhibitionism, unpredictable, determined and resilient.'

By Diana Hutchinson

SEXLESS, guilt-ridden and male-dominated, with no sense of humour and the intellectual grasp of a child. That is the astonishing picture advertisers held of women 60 years ago — and went on holding into the Swinging Sixties.

She was the kind of person who, when Ginger Rogers told her in a 1930s' bubble caption that washing her face with Lux day and night would bring romance, actually believed it.

But advertisers have altered their perceptions over the decades. Today's woman is seen as 'narcissistic with a streak of exhibitionism, unpredictable, determined and resilient'. That is according to Judie Launton, the research director of J. Walter Thompson, the advertising agency which has kept the Lux account for 60 years.

Secret

'The concept was always to link the world's first mass-market soap with the screen goddesses of the day,' she says. 'But the way JWT viewed women and their self-perceptions couldn't have changed more dramatically.'

In 1928, when the first campaign began, women were seen as permanently grateful to someone — children, husbands or salesmen — and riddled with secret anxieties about germs, dirt and other people's concern.

Powerful

In the Fifties, the demure and ladylike Grace Kelly and Audrey Hepburn were judged the stars most women wanted to be like. Elizabeth Taylor, then 20, also appeared looking like an innocent teenager. Five years later, an extremely fresh-faced Joan Collins set the tone for the new adverts.

Market research had told advertisers women didn't

believe in themselves; their status and success was dependent on men. Their bodies were 'hidden' by their clothes, hairstyles and make-up. But they had a greater sense of outer beauty and glamour. They saw themselves as a piece of brilliant jewellery belonging to a man,' Judie says.

Other people still came first. The dream job was to be an air stewardess. It was a chance to rub shoulders with luxury and to see the world, but remain in the role of a servant to men.

It was in the Sixties that radical change began, and women demanded a say both at work and in the home. Advertising changed so the star image was no longer someone impossible far above them, but more in the role of a friend. Positive women's like Julie Christie, Jacqueline Bissett and Raquel Welch had a powerful way of dealing with men.

Discreet

But what had not altered by the Seventies, despite the rise of feminism and labour-saving devices, was the fact that housewives spent 40 hours and walked 52 miles a week doing household chores.

The Eighties has heralded the New Woman. Only four out of ten are full-time housewives. Now, more than 60 per cent of women below retirement age are out at work. They account for 90 per cent of grocery purchases, including soap, and



The face for 1988: Nastassja Kinski

even the over-45s are accounting for £18 billion annual expenditure.

And, according to the research, the New Woman has a poor view of the way advertisers and marketers try to stereotype them. 'The New Woman is an individual, not one in an amorphous mass,' says Judie.

'She has intelligence and a discreet, often maverick, personality which reacts unpredictably. She has become more competitive and no longer feels compelled to please other people.' New Woman is also proud of her body, and advertising has definitely moved into the bathroom.

Today's stars are Victoria Principal and Cheryl Ladd — both out and out keep-fit career women — along with the notoriously free-minded Nastassja Kinski and Isabella Adjani.

Only one thing hasn't changed, according to research done

to mark Lux's diamond anniversary. The main focus of a woman's life is still getting married and having children, and providing them with a warm and secure home.

Only don't give her any soft soap along the way — she will not be patronised anymore.



If you feel ten years younger after a shave in the morning, why don't you shave before you come to bed?

ARAB TIMES MONTHLY

BINGO

COMPETITION NO. 66

PRIZES

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2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the

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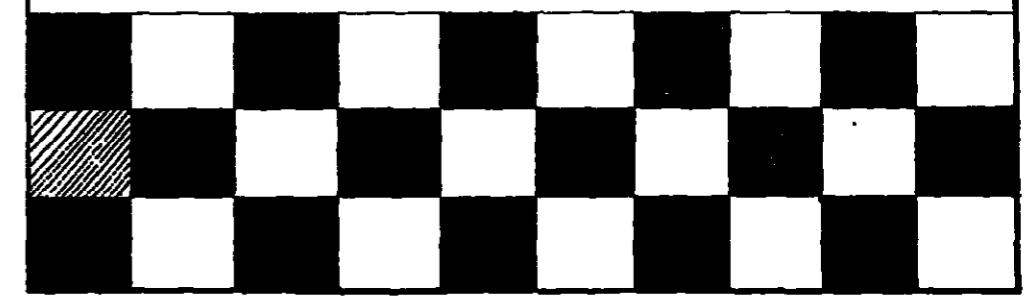
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6. Watch out for YOUR numbers each morning in the ARAB TIMES.

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NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss)

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IS YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE?

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4. If there is a tie, the winning name will be drawn from a hat.

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6. No responsibility can be accepted for delayed or missing entries, or altered or mutilated entries although the date franked on envelopes will be accepted so long as it is prior to the competition starting date. Envelopes without names, initials on the back, initials in front, and those received after the closing time detailed on this form will be disqualified.

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Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

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This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified.

When you have completed your entry

card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:

Bingo,
Arab Times,
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat Kuwait.

A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Money supply growth increased by 4.7pc last year

Kuwait's economic recovery hopes soar

THE Kuwait economy was looking up in 1987 as compared to the previous year in several aspects. The population has increased by 4.6 per cent in 1987 and reached the level of 1,873 million, according to the Bank Operating Statistics published by the Kuwait's Institute of Banking Studies. But the exports in 1987 has gone up by 10.8 per cent to reach KD2,330 million. The increase and stabilisation of oil prices during the year around \$16-18 per barrel had helped increasing the revenues from oil export. The oil export in 1987 was KD2,097 million, which was 13.2 per cent more than the previous year. The public revenues also have increased in 1987 by 8 per cent from the 1986 level and reached KD2,518 million.

However, the public expenditure in 1987 was KD2,520 million during the year which was 17.3 per cent less than 1986 level. This was probably due to the budget deficits of 1985 and 86.

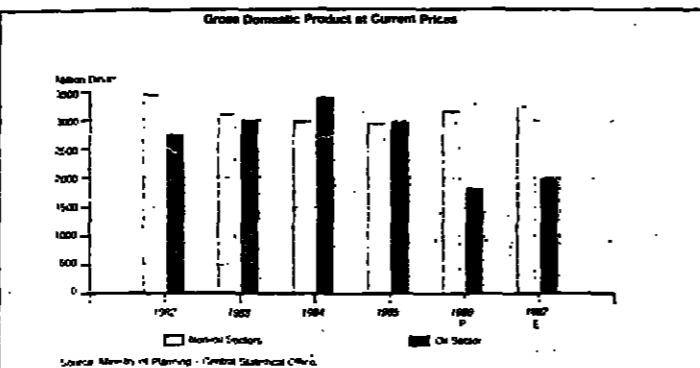
Loans

In 1987, all Kuwaiti banks have worked seriously for implementing the Difficult Credit Facilities Settlement Programme. In essence, the

programme consists of rescheduling of the problem loans over either 10 or 15 years. Under the programme the Central Bank has guaranteed the shortfall in the provisions of the banks against indebtedness in order to protect the interests of shareholders and depositors alike, in addition to solving the debt problem without causing extraordinarily painful effects of the defaulters. The efforts on the Central Bank in this direction was primarily aimed to help putting the banks back into a sound footing for the future without causing political or social problems. The process is expected to be completed by 1988 and once completed, it would undoubtedly lay strong foundation for the economic recovery and growth of the country. With that the banking system would also become more sound.

Increased

The total money supply had increased by 4.7 per cent in 1987, while the increase in money supply was only 2.6 per cent in 86. At the same time during the year the interbank money rates have further declined from the previous year levels. By the end of the year overnight rates were quoted



around 3 per cent and the 3-month rates around 5 per cent.

In March 1987, the Central Bank announced a new interest rate policy. Interest rate ceiling for productive purposes was fixed at 6 per cent level while for the other types of short-term loans, the rate was fixed at 7.5 per cent. For loans with maturity over one year, the ceiling was fixed at 1 per cent above the Kuwait Inter-Bank Offered Rate (KIBOR) prevailing at the time of granting the loan. For consumer loans the ceiling was fixed at 6 per cent which could be dis-

counted at the time of loan disbursement. The new interest rate policy is expected to stimulate consumption and investment in the local and consequently the economic activity in the country.

Move

In September 1987, the government decided to introduce short-term treasury bills and long-term treasury bonds programme in Kuwait. The move authorises the government to raise KD1.4 billion from the public in the form of borrowings. It was a move to bridge the budget deficit of government. At the same time the step would also

help providing additional investment opportunities for the financial institutions and the residents, and broaden the financial market of Kuwait.

The instruments are bearer instruments listed in the local stock market. Though the underwriting is restricted to the local financial institution, individuals and companies also could buy the instruments.

Bonds

The first three issues of treasury bills and treasury bonds by the Central Bank of Kuwait in late 1987 was overwhelmingly received by the financial market. The CBK could raise a total of KD628 million (KD423 million from treasury bills and KD205 million from treasury bonds) from the first three issues alone.

In the year 1987, approximately KD105 million was raised by the international bond issuers and the Kuwaiti investment companies from the local capital market.

In May 1987, the Republic of Finland issued KD20 million worth of 7 year bonds in Kuwait. This was the first such issue by a non-Kuwaiti borrower since 1982.

It was followed by KD30

million bond issue by the World Bank. In addition to these issues, the three major investment companies of Kuwait had issued a total of KD55 million worth of bonds. The above bond issues indicate the revival of the bond market in Kuwait.

Activity

The stock market activity in Kuwait has further improved in 1987. The splitting up of par value of shares from one KD to 100 fils in 1987 is expected to widen the participation in the market.

The five year plan of Kuwait for 1985-90 had set a target growth rate of 3.9 percent for the GDP. This growth rate is possible to achieve with improved government expenditure during 1988-90 period.

The official reserves of the country is estimated to be around KD25 billion in 1986, of which around KD14 billion is held as the Fund for Future Generations and the remaining in the form of the general reserves of the state. The above reserves and the investment income arising from their investments would continue to provide financial security to the country even in the eventuality of any decline of oil prices.

World Business Summary

Saudi firm launches public share flotation

RIYADH, Sept 4, (Reuters): A newly-formed real estate development company based in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah has launched a public share flotation worth \$4 million (KD2.3 million). The two-month flotation for the Makkah Construction and Development Co — Saudi Arabia's fourth in 1988 after a three-year hiatus — began on Saturday. Makkah is offering 3.36 million shares, representing 25 per cent of its total capital of 1.335 million riyals (\$336 million). A nominal 1.02 billion riyals (\$272 million) of shares are being offered privately to founding shareholders. The shares are priced at 100 riyals (\$26.6) and subscribers must pay 25 per cent of the face value of the stock. A spokesman for the consulting centre for finance and investments, which is handling the flotation, said the offering had begun well, but would give no details. Makkah will specialise in construction of new buildings and renovation of old in Makkah, Islam's holiest city and the site of the Haj annual pilgrimage. An earlier \$12.2 million riyal (\$1.2 million) flotation for Al-Rajhi Investment Banking Corp was oversubscribed nearly eight times with share prices reported more than a trebling to 355 riyals (\$133) in several weeks. But two other offerings were not as well received. A 300 million riyal (\$11.2 million) flotation for Taiba Co for investments and Real Estate Development closed marginally oversubscribed in April after a 30-day extension. A 149.1 million riyal (\$56 million) offering for Al-Jouf Agricultural Development Co ended five per cent undersubscribed in July after two 30-day extensions.

China's Central Bank to tie interest rates to inflation

BELIJING, Sept 4, (AP): China's Central Bank will tie interest rates on savings deposits to inflation in a move to quell bank runs and panic-buying caused by rising prices. The official Xinhua news agency said today the People's Bank of China will provide subsidies that will bridge any gap between interest rates and the price index. It said the measure will take effect on Sept 10 and apply to three, five and eight-year savings deposits. Xinhua said the subsidies will be given only to individual depositors, and collectives that try to transfer their deposits to individuals will be fined. On Sept 1 commercial banks raised interest rates for time deposits, with rates for a three-year deposit going from 7.2 per cent to 8.64 per cent, still well below the consumer inflation rate of 19 per cent registered in June. Sharp rises in prices, and rumours that the government will boost the prices of more items as part of its price reforms, have led to runs on banks, hoarding and panic-buying in many parts of the country in recent weeks. The government has tried to restore calm by announcing there will be no further price hikes this year and ordering banks to adopt stricter lending practices to cool off the overheated economy. Xinhua said today the industrial and Commercial Bank of China issued a circular instructing branches not to refuse withdrawals by depositors. It said lending should be limited to organisations needing funds for key state projects or for buying daily necessities such as grain. It also said that no loans should be provided to enterprises responsible for indiscriminate price hikes.

London talks seen crucial to survival of cocoa pact

LONDON, Sept 4, (Reuters): The international cocoa agreement may become the next commodity pact to founder as efforts to balance supply and demand in a glutted world market, government and trade experts say. On Monday cocoa producers and consumers meet here in what could be their last chance to patch over wide differences. Last week cocoa prices fell to their lowest in more than 12 years. Producing and consuming nations in the International Cocoa Organisation (ICO) have since March been arguing over where the pact should try to peg cocoa prices. "There is a real danger the whole agreement will have to be dismantled," said Lawrence Eagle of London-based commodity analysts Landell Mills. Last week, Ivory Coast Agriculture Minister Denis Bra Komo, whose country is the world's biggest cocoa producer, said bluntly: "We see it (the pact) dying its own death." And Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny said his country would not join any new pact beyond September, 1989, unless prices rose. Delegates to the two-week meeting will be haunted by memories of the 1985 collapse of the international tin agreement, which left huge debts and a string of still unresolved lawsuits in its wake. Cocoa futures on Friday touched their lowest levels for more than 12 years in London at under \$200 (\$1,240) a tonne. Faced with a likely fifth successive surplus crop, analysts say the world cocoa supply is well out of balance with demand. Through consumption is rising on lower shop prices, it is unable to catch up with output that reflects increased plantings five to 10 years ago, particularly in Ivory Coast and Malaysia.

OPEC chairman under fire

LAGOS, Sept 4, (Reuters): A leading Nigerian newspaper said today that the country's Oil Minister, OPEC chairman, Kifowit Lakman, was under fire at home from senior officials and members of the ruling military council. The front-page story in the *Guardian*, widely regarded as one of Nigeria's most authoritative newspapers, quoted anonymous government officials as describing Lakman's handling of national oil policy as shortsighted and impulsive. The article was a rare attack on Lakman whose standing has risen at home and abroad since he was elected chairman of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1986. "The minister is being criticised by some of his colleagues and Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) members for allegedly recommending policies that were later found not to be in the best interest of Nigeria," the unsigned story said. Lakman's critics felt he was too high-handed in refusing to allow Nigeria to deviate from its OPEC crude production quota despite regular breaches by other OPEC members, it said. One AFRC member said Nigeria, whose battered economy is dependent on crude oil exports, should never again accept the OPEC chairman. The AFRC is composed of 29 senior military officers and chaired by the President, General Ibrahim Babangida. Spokesmen for the government and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), of which Lakman is also chairman, were not immediately available for comment. Lakman was abroad on a private visit.

Moscow boosts paper exports

MOSCOW, Sept 4, (Reuters): The Soviet Union — where officials citing a paper shortage have curtailed subscriptions to the most popular periodicals — has increased exports of paper, pulp and timber, Moscow Radio reported today. The radio quoted Leonid Grekov, deputy chief of the State Foreign Economic Relations Committee, as saying reform of Soviet foreign trade activities had brought a rise in sales abroad of paper along with machinery and metal ore. News that subscription lists were being curtailed for next year had sparked an outcry among supporters of "glasnost", the Kremlin's openness policy, which complain that greater freedom of expression becomes meaningless if the ideas cannot be read. The circulation limits affect the immensely popular weekly *Ogonyok*, the groundbreaking literary journals *Novy Mir* and *Zamysly* and dozens of other periodicals whose readership has surged in step with the progress made by "glasnost." One distressed commentator, writing in *Moscow News*, suggested that the Soviet Union buy paper abroad to beat the shortage of paper, foreign countries to recycle Soviet paper. Analysts said Grekov's disclosure of rising paper exports was likely to set off a new storm among Soviet public unwilling to see its right to the written word abridged.

Oil consumption will increase, says OAPEC official

ECONOMIC reconstruction in the Gulf will weigh heavily on oil production in the region and prices of the commodity worldwide, according to a senior Arab oil industry official.

Indications abound that oil consumption will increase by about one million barrels a day by next year, said acting Secretary General of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Abdul Aziz Al Wattari in an interview published on Sunday.

If global production accelerates beyond the level of consumption, it will be hard for producers to maintain the current prices, Al Wattari warned in a newspaper interview.

Demand

Meanwhile, he defended Iraq's demand for an OPEC production quota equal to Iran's 2,369 million barrels per day (BDP), saying OAPEC's overall output will not increase if the Iraqi request is met. He did not explain how.

OAPEC includes 10 oil exporting Arab countries, but is not involved in production and pricing policies of its members.

Most other oil exporters support Iraq's stand and think equal quotas would clear the way for an agreement which in turn would stabilize the market.

System

Iraq broke away from the OPEC quota system in 1986 and has since been producing freely to press its demand for a production ceiling equal to that of its war foe. OPEC's current ceiling to the exclusion of Iraq is 15.06 million BDP.

Wattari faulted the media in the region for ignoring a major factor in oil market developments which is how oil revenues will be spent in the wake of the Gulf war ceasefire.

He said spending oil revenues on reconstruction and development in peacetime will re-energize other several economic sectors, chiefly industries related to oil production, manufacturing and export.

North Yemen premier holds economic talks in Syria

DAMASCUS, Sept 4, (Reuters): North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul-Aziz Abdulghani arrived in Syria today for an official visit aimed at promoting economic and oil co-operation, officials said.

Diplomats said Abdulghani, whose country joined the ranks of world oil producers earlier this year, might seek Syrian technical expertise in developing North Yemen's oil industry.

Co-operation

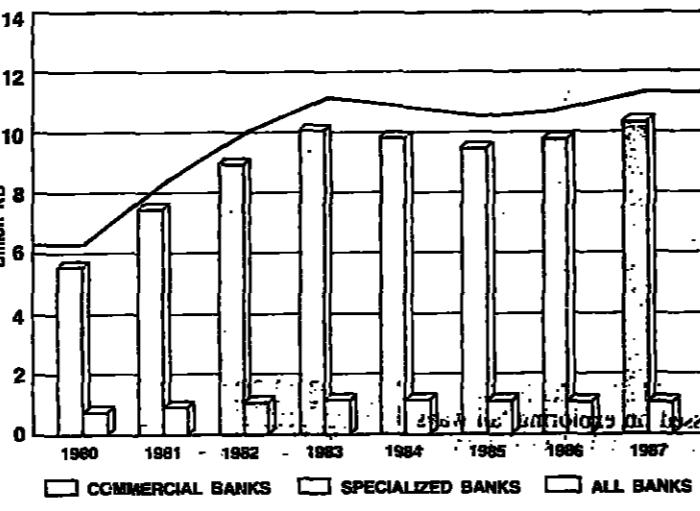
Syria has produced oil since the late 1960s and now has an estimated output of 250,000 barrels per day. More than 80 per cent of its oil operations are run by local engineers and experts.

Abdulghani, who was greeted by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi, said in an arrival statement that he would discuss ways to expand economic co-operation and commercial exchanges with Syria.

Investors show keen interest in shares

Kuwait banks' assets growing, says IBS study

KUWAITI BANKS: TOTAL ASSETS (80-87)



per cent to reach KD 2,692 million. Meanwhile, the deposits stood at KD 9,931 million level and the shareholders' equity at KD 1,114 million.

The annual growth in deposits in 1987 was 4.37 percent and that of share holders' equity was 11.7 per cent.

Profit

In 1987 the net profit of the eight banks has increased by 14.9 per cent from the previous year.

The net profit in 1987 was KD

63.12 million. At the same time it may be noted that the 1987 net profit of commercial banks has been only 73 per cent of the peak level net profit achieved in 1983.

But in all respects the growth rates of the banking system in 1987 were better than the previous year.

At the end of 1987 the aggregate market value of the shares of the banks — excluding the Industrial Bank, whose shares are not traded — was KD

1,707 million while the book value of shares was KD 1,114 million.

The 1987 market value of shares of the seven banks was 30 per cent more than that of the previous year. But still the market value of banks shares remained only at 46 per cent of the 1982 value.

However, as compared to 1985, the market value was 86 per cent more in 1987. This may be considered as a clear indication of the renewal of investors' confidence in the bank shares.

As on December 31, 1987, the eight banks have employed 6,425 employees. Of this, the number of Kuwaitis were 6,105 to 201 in

Growth

As on December 31, 1987, the total assets of the six commercial banks was KD 10,320 million as against KD 9,724 million in 1986. The growth rate of assets in 1987 was 6.13 per cent as against 3.08 per cent in 1986. At the end of 1987, the total deposits, and loans and discounts were KD 9,234 and 5,450 million respectively, which were also marginally higher than the previous year.

It must be noted that consecutively, for 1984 and 1985 the total assets of the commercial

(Continued on Page 11)

UK gold, currency reserves up

LONDON, Sept 4, (KUNA): British gold and foreign currency reserves rose by \$813 million in August, helped by \$495 million from American and Canadian investors, it was officially reported here today.

They were paying the second instalment of BP privatised shares bought at the time of the doomed sell-off last October immediately in the wake of the stock market crash, the British Treasury pointed out.

As a result, the reserves rose from \$49,826 million to \$50,639 million, the first time they have ever topped the \$50 billion mark.

British officials said that the figures reflected the Bank of England's efforts to halt the rise of the pound earlier this month.

But sterling has weakened in recent days, and some of the reserves will probably have been used to prop up the currency.

Efforts

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Bid to strengthen commercial ties

Kuwait, Denmark to sign economic pact

By Jeannette Porter

KUWAIT and Denmark are to sign today an economic co-operation agreement expected to extend the relations between the two countries beyond a mere exchange of goods, Danish Foreign Affairs Minister Uffe Ellermann-Jensen said.

The agreement, to be signed by the Danish minister and Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al Khalid, will pave the way for a joint economic commission that will deal with trade as well as industrial

and technical issues, he said.

Ellermann-Jensen is accompanied by a 30-member trade delegation, the largest Danish trade mission to ever visit Kuwait.

Strengthen

The Danes are seeking to strengthen their economic presence in Kuwait, particularly in construction, food processing, transportation, electronics, administration systems and production facilities.

Although Denmark's exports to Kuwait have fallen over the past two years, its share of the

local market grew, Ellermann-Jensen said.

After Saudi Arabia, Kuwait is the largest importer of Danish goods in the Gulf, but Denmark's per capita exports to Kuwait exceed even those to Saudi Arabia.

Co-operation

Ellermann-Jensen said that the Danish state company for electronic data processing is negotiating with Kuwait's Finance Ministry about setting up a comprehensive data system in Kuwait.

The Danish minister said that

the Danish delegation's visit to Kuwait was particularly well-timed because it comes in the wake of the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and after a GCC-EEC agreement on economic, commercial and technical co-operation.

Exports

Kuwaiti and Danish officials called for liberalisation of trade between the EEC and GCC countries. The GCC exports of refined petrochemical products are a contentious issue in the negotiations between the two groups.

No tariffs are being imposed on most of Gulf states' petrochemical exports to Europe.

However, Ellermann-Jensen said that these exports are in direct competition with similar products from some of the EEC members, and threatens to worsen the unemployment problem in these countries.

The Danish minister said the EEC members will continue to give preferential treatment to GCC products but would like the Gulf states to reciprocate with similar arrangements for the EEC exports to the Gulf.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rate slightly lower, dollar dips

Kuwaiti dinar

BASED on last week's opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate was slightly lower against the US dollar, ending the week at 285.91 fils compared with its last closing the week before at 284.90 fils.

Against the pound sterling, the KD was lower ending the week at 481.13 fils compared with this week before last's closing of 480.20 fils.

The KD was slightly against the DM, ending the week at 152.36 fils, compared with its closing of 151.80 fils the week before.

The KD was also slightly lower against the SF, ending the week at 180.56 with its week before last closing at 180.15 fils.

Against the ID, the KD was slightly higher ending the week in its week before last closing at 753.30 fils.

The KD was mostly unchanged against the GCC currencies.

World stock markets

Wall-Street stock prices weakened over the week, but improved late on Friday.

Early weakness stemmed from concern about tighter credit and a 431.69 point decline to 26,934.26 in the Nikkei index Tokyo Stock Market.

However, on Friday 3, a moderate rise in August employment damped concern about inflation and brought the market to its sharpest rally in several months, with the Dow Jones gaining 55 points.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2041, then dropped to 2022 before it closed higher at 2055, recording a gain of 38 points over the week before last closing of 2017.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange weakened earlier in the week due to continuing concern over the UK's balance of payments position.

Late in the week, sterling declined sharply.

However, the Bank of England intervened to support the currency, promoting gains in money market rates.

On one hand, the weight of negative sentiment following a

record stg 2.15 billion UK July current account deficit appeared to be behind sterling's decline, while on the other hand, several large sell orders in New York in thin conditions were responsible for the sudden plunge.

A rise in August official reserves of \$827 million had little effect on sterling.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week easier against the US dollar at 1.8720/30 marks but ended higher at 1.8520/30 marks, a shade firmer than its week before last closing at 1.8590/00 marks.

Market nervousness of Central Bank's intervention heightened at any small move.

The mark benefited from a weaker dollar on higher US unemployment in August.

Last month, the release of strong US unemployment figure in July pushed the mark to a 19 month low against the dollar at 1.9250.

The Bundesbank changed the method by which it operates tenders for a securities repurchase pact to stabilise market rates in the short-term in line with Bundesbank's wishes.

French franc

The French Franc opened the week against the US dollar at 6.3510/40 FFFR and closed higher at 6.2950/80 FFR compared to its week before last closing at 6.3135/65 FFFR.

Consumer prices rose by 0.3 per cent in July, bringing year-on-year inflation to 2.7 per cent.

The July inflation figure was well below its year-on-year price-of-3.4 per cent put in July 1987, but was fractionally up from 2.6 per cent in June.

Finance Minister P. Beresgovoy confirmed reports earlier last week that the official government estimate for growth this year will be revised to show more than 3 per cent and maybe close to 3.5 per cent.

Swiss franc

The Swiss franc opened the week against the US dollar at 1.5780/90 SF and closed higher at 1.5555/65 SF compared to its week before last closing of 1.5675/85 SF.

According to the Swiss Association of Trade and Industry, rising exports, robust industrial production and growing domestic demand should keep

the Swiss economy strong and hold real economic growth over 2 per cent in 1988.

Oil prices

Oil prices in the world markets fell last week, to their mid-July levels.

Spot prices for North Sea Brent Crude were between 13.95-14.45 dollars per barrel range.

Prices for October cargoes fell to 14.20-14.65 dollars per barrel range.

US oil prices fell below 15 dollars per barrel, the lowest level in six weeks.

October crude oil contracts fell to 14.77 dollars per barrel.

Oil prices are likely to remain within their current levels during September due to continued over supply in the world markets and high levels of stocks in the consuming countries.

However, prices are likely to improve in the fourth quarter of this year due to expected increase in the seasonal demand, provided that OPEC output ceiling is not exceeded.

Precious metals

Precious metals prices came under strain last week, suffering generally from a perception that major central banks are determined to curb inflationary pressures by raising interest rates.

Also, lower crude oil prices bolstered the view that inflationary pressures are under control.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at 428/428.50 dollars per ounce and ended lower at 427.75/428.25 dollars per ounce, recording a loss of around 4.25 dollars over the previous week's closing of 432/432.50 dollars per ounce.

Gold seems to have settled within a 10 dollar near-term range of about 425 to 435 dollars.

Silver bullion prices opened the week at 6.56/6.58 and closed lower at 6.55/6.57 dollars per ounce, losing 10 cents on average over the previous week's closing of 6.65/6.67 dollars per ounce.

Silver seems to be moving within a trading range of about 6.50 to 6.70 dollars per ounce.

Platinum

Platinum opened the week at 524/525.50 dollars per ounce and closed lower at 524/525.50 dollars per ounce, over the previous week's closing of 540.50/541.50 dollars per ounce.

Kuwait banks' assets growing: IBS

(Continued from Page 10)

However, the rate of decline in 1987 was only 0.97 per cent as compared to the 1986 decline of 3.8 per cent. The deposits and lending of specialised banks have also declined from the previous year levels.

During 1987 the net profit of the specialised banks has decreased by 3.2 per cent from the previous year. The net profit in 1987 was KD 8.85 million.

At the same time it may be noted that the 1987 net profit of specialised banks has been only 83 per cent of the peak level net profit achieved in 1984.

Apparently, the decline for specialised banks was halted in 1987.

The return on assets of the banking system in 1987 was 0.56 per cent (5.43 per cent) for commercial banks and 0.85 per cent for specialised banks. It may be noted that in the previous year the return of assets of the banking system was 0.51 per cent (0.47 per cent for commercial banks and 0.87 per cent for specialised banks).

Earnings During 1987 the time deposits have shown a considerable decline of 12.98 per cent as against substantial increases in the other forms of deposits.

During the year, there was a very small increase in the proportion of liquid assets, investments and deposits, and other assets, while the proportion of loans and discounts in the asset structure has declined by 1.03 per cent. In other words the growth in loans and discounts did not keep up with the growth in total assets.

The loans and discounts as a percentage of total deposits was 60.46 per cent in 1987. The break up of commercial banks' credit to the various sectors of the economy at the end of 1987 was as follows: personal loans (28 per cent), loans for trading (20.8 per cent),

cent), real estate (18.1 per cent), construction (17 per cent), financial services (10.1 per cent), industry (3 per cent), agriculture and fisheries (0.3 per cent), and other types (2.7 per cent).

There was no substantial change in the structure of the bank credit as compared to the previous two years.

At the end of 1987, the off-balance sheet activity accounted for 14.57 per cent of the balance sheet activity represented by the total assets. The off-balance sheet activity has remained more or less at the previous year level.

As already noted, at the end of 1987, KDR 931 million (87.43 per cent) of the total assets of the eight banks was financed by the deposits. The deposits have accounted for 9.8 per cent of the total funding of banks in 1987.

In all respects the Kuwaiti banks are in a sound footing as far as the capital adequacy standards are concerned.

In the coming years the Kuwaiti banks are going to enter into a much sounder financial standing.

To conclude, it is well known that the crash of the unofficial stock market in 1982 and the accompanying problem loans, the fall in oil prices and consequent fall in public expenditure, and the continuation of the Iran-Iraq conflict were the major reasons for the adverse performance of the economy and banking system in Kuwait during the past few years.

The progress in the implementation of the Difficult Credit Facilities Settlement Programme, under the auspices of the Central Bank of Kuwait, in 1987 has certainly mitigated the lingering effects of the stock market crash of 1982 and the problem loans.

The improvement and firming up of oil prices around \$16-18 per barrel in 1987, has helped increasing the oil revenues of the country and also improving its general economic confidence.

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The structural changes in deposits are important to be noted for sound financial management of banks.

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KUWAIT							
BANK SECTOR	P. CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE	
NATIONAL BANK	1.030	1.070	1.045	1.020	40000	4	
GULF BANK	0.430	0.420	0.425	0.420	18		

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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MAID required, Muslim, for a small Egyptian family full-time or part-time. Tele. 9037679. (AT2-43753-3)

MAID required, Filipino, for an European family with two children. Tele. 2438120, 10 am onwards. (AT2-43760-3)

MAID required for an European family to live-in. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 5629779. (AT2-43745-3)

NURSERY for children, entering the L.K.G. & U.K.G. of the Indian schools syllabus given by a graduate in a CAC apartment behind Burjan Bank H.O., Sharq. Tele. 2422757. (AT2-43761-2)

PRE-SCHOOL training for children from 3 years old and English from grade 1 to 9 given by an experienced Montessori teacher. Tele. 5616390 10 am onwards. (AT1-43742-3)

SITUATIONS

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DRIVER (with light licence) Indian, 7 years experience in Kuwait with good knowledge of Arabic and English, with transferable residence No. 18, seeks full-time job. Tele. 5323128, 8 am - 7 pm. (AT5-43790-3)

MAID, Sri Lankan, with experience and a good command of English, seeks full-time or part-time job with or without accommodation. Please Tele. 5320443, 8 - 11 am. (AT2-43759-3)

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MAID required, Muslim, for a small Egyptian family full-time or part-time. Tele. 9037679. (AT2-43753-3)

MAID required, Filipino, for an European family with two children. Tele. 2438120, 10 am onwards. (AT2-43760-3)

MAID required for an European family to live-in. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 5629779. (AT2-43745-3)

MAID Indian, with 18 years experience in Kuwait, speaks English and Arabic, seeks full-time job. Tele. 3900541, 8 am - 5 pm. (AT2-43780-2)

Vacant

MAID required, Muslim, for a small Egyptian family full-time or part-time. Tele. 9037679. (AT2-43753-3)

MAID required, Filipino, for an European family with two children. Tele. 2438120, 10 am onwards. (AT2-43760-3)

MAID required for an European family to live-in. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 5629779. (AT2-43745-3)

MAID-required for a small Indian family to live-in. Experience with babies is a must. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 4347902, res. 9 am - 2 pm; 5 - 9 pm. (AT2-43765-3)

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COMMERCIAL
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P.O. Box 2270
13022, SAFAT
Kuwait
Tele. 4316326/7

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2 insertions KD 4. Three insertions KD 5

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3. Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name and telephone number.
4. Text must be typed or clearly printed. No alterations or cancellations will be made after publication.
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For information, please contact tel Nos. 2425752 or 2425753 mornings, or 3721468 or 3722472 evenings. Mubarak

SPORTS BRIEFS

Masters golf

CRANS, Switzerland, Sept. 4. (AP): Chris Moody of England today won the 1.05 million franc (\$677,000) European Masters golf tournament by one stroke, upsetting favorite Severiano Ballesteros of Spain, this year's British Open champion. Moody shot a seven-under-par 65 today, bringing his four-round total to 268, or 20-under-par on the Alpine course. He had been three strokes behind going into the final round.

Memorial cricket

THE first General Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed Memorial Cricket Tournament is scheduled to start soon, according to the organizer Haji Latajat. The draw for the tournament will be held at the Lalazar Restaurant on Sept. 9 at 8:00 pm. For further information contact Altaf Khan, Tel: 3292107 ext. 37 (8 am to 1.00 pm) or Naveed Ahmed, Tel: 3926007.

Charity Classic

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 4. (Reuter): American Donna White used brilliant iron play for what she called an easy 66 yesterday to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the LPGA tour's \$250,000 Charity Classic.

Canadian Open

OAKVILLE, Ontario, Sept. 4. (Reuter): American Ken Green eagled the 13th hole in a four-under-par round that gave him a two-stroke lead after the third round of the \$750,000 Canadian Open golf championship yesterday.

Taylor triumphs

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Sept. 4. (Reuter): Olympic champion Meldrick Taylor took the International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior welterweight title from Buddy McGirt yesterday by stopping the former champion at two minutes of the 12th round.

Title fight

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept. 4. (Reuter): Mexico's Gilberto Roman retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-middleweight crown today after scoring a unanimous points victory over Japanese challenger Kiyoshi Hatanaka.

Pical wins

JAKARTA, Sept. 4. (Reuter): Indonesia's Ellyas Pical retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior bantamweight title today by beating South Korean challenger Kim Chang Ki on points in a 12-round bout.

Morten Olsen

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 4. (UPI): Due to a serious groin injury, Denmark's veteran libero Morten Olsen will not play his 100th international this year as planned, but will have to wait till 1989 for his farewell performance for the Danish side.

Final appearance

LONDON, Sept. 4. (UPI): World javelin champion Fatima Whitbread will make her final appearance in Britain before the Seoul Olympics when she competes at a club meeting on Sept. 9.

Soccer violence

LONDON, Sept. 4. (UPI): West Ham United stepped up its campaign against soccer violence, banning 16 supporters for life. Secretary Tom Finn said the club had consulted police on the action, and that if any of the 16 try to enter Upton Park they will be refused admission. If they are found inside the ground, they will be ejected and charged with trespassing.

Ban lifted

SEOUL, Sept. 4. (Reuter): Olympic athletes will be free to toast victories or drown sorrows now that Games village authorities have lifted a liquor ban.

Auto race

GOTEMBA, Japan, Sept. 4. (AP): Kazuyoshi Hoshino started from the pole position in a Cabin T88 and won the final auto race of the six-event Grand Champion Series today.

Sports race

NUERBURGRING, West Germany, Sept. 4. (Reuter): Jean-Louis Schlesser won the duel against the powerful Jaguar teams to give Mercedes their third World Sportscar Championship victory of the year in the 1,000 km race here today.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Habiba Bridge Club game held on Saturday: N/S
1. Captain Salman & K.T. Simon
2. Nabil Akef & Sherin Basyoni
3. Ghanim & Saymesh
E/W
1. Mrs Pereira & Mrs D'Souza
2. Ezzeldin & Ahmed Tawil
3. Majeed & Gajjar

LAMB AND LABROOY SHINE

Barnett leads England to victory

LONDON, Aug. 4. (Reuter): Kim Barnett looked to have booked his place on the forthcoming tour of India with a fine 84 which led England to a five-wicket win in their one-day cricket match against Sri Lanka at the Oval today.

Chasing Sri Lanka's score of 242 for seven in their 55 overs, Barnett played the anchor role after England had lost openers Graham Gooch and Tim Robinson for 22.

Denied

He shared in a third wicket partnership of 118 with Allan Lamb and was denied a century only by a superb piece of fielding by Athula Samarasekera, who made a magnificent stop and then hurled the ball back while still on his knees to run Barnett out.

Sri Lanka fielded splendidly throughout but with Lamb scoring 66 and Rob Bailey 43 not out, England reached their target with 14 balls to spare.

The visitors were far from outclassed. After losing the toss and being asked to bat, all their batsmen reached double figures, with former captain Duleep Mendis top-scoring with 60.

He faced only 65 balls and



Lamb: scored 66

blasted a six and six fours before finally becoming one of paceman Gladstone Small's three victims.

Somewhat surprisingly, Gooch was England's most economical bowler, taking two wickets for 35 in 11 overs with his

gentle medium pace, while off-spinner Vic Marks, in his first international for three years, had a disappointing return of none for 59 in his 11.

Paceman Graeme Labrooy was Sri Lanka's most effective



Labrooy: three for 40

bowler, taking three for 40 in 10 overs.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA	
B. Karuppu lbw b Gooch	38
A. Samarasekera b Small	10
A. de Silva b Gooch	16

A. Ranasingha run out 37

D. Mendis b Small 60

R. Madugalle c Foster b Pringle 19

R. Ranasinghe not out 17

H. Tilikkeratne not out 15

G. Labrooy not out 10

Extras (b-1 lb-10 w-5 nb-1) 20

Total (for seven wickets - 55 overs) 242 - Innings closed.

Fall of wickets: 1-21 2-54 3-75

4-144 5-190 6-193 7-224

Did not bat: R. Madurasinghe, D. Amarasinghe

Bowling: Foster 11-0-47-0, Small 11-1-44-3, Gooch 11-1-35-2, Pringle 11-0-46-1, Marks 11-0-59-0

ENGLAND

G. Gooch c De Silva b Labrooy 7

T. Robinson lbw b Ranasinghe 13

K. Barnett run out 84

A. Lamb c Labrooy b Labrooy 66

R. Smith c Karuppu b Labrooy 9

R. Bailey not out 43

D. Pringle not out 19

Extras (w-3 nb-1) 4

Total (five wickets - 54 overs) 245

Fall of wickets: 1-9 2-22 3-140

4-154 5-213

Did not bat: J. Russell, V. Marks, N. Foster, G. Small

Bowling: Ranasinghe 9.4-3-37-1, Labrooy 10.0-40-3, Samarasekera 11-0-52-0, Ranasinghe 11-0-42-0, Amarasinghe 6-31-0, De Silva 2-19-0, Madurasinghe 3-24-0.

Result: England won by five wickets.

Iraqi squad leaves for Seoul

BAGHDAD, Sept. 4. (Reuter): Iraq's national soccer team left for Seoul today to begin training for the Olympics later this month, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

INA said the Iraqis would play the South Korean national side and a local club team as a warm-up for their first round matches against Zambia, Italy and Guatemala.

The Seoul Olympics are the third in a row for which the Iraqi soccer team have qualified.



Qadir: top spinner

to gain practice."

Australia have their own answer to Qadir—leg-spinner Peter Sleep, a veteran of the last Australian touring side which lost both the Tests and the one-day internationals 3-0 in 1982-83.

Australia have the psychological boost of having beaten Pakistan on the way to their World Cup victory last year. They outplayed the favourites in the semifinal in Lahore's Khaddafi stadium, where they begin their nine-match tour tomorrow.

Qadir will captain a Patron's XI for the three-day game, transferred from Rawalpindi following the death on August 17 of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Well-matched

While Qadir may choose not to offer the tourists too much practice against his spin, Allan Border's men will probably get a crack at likely Test pacemen Mohsin Kamal and Hafiz Shahid.

Simpson said the two sides were well-matched. "Form on the day will decide it. There's no problem about the weather as we've been here at the same time for the last two years."

"We're mentally attuned to what we require, the heat won't worry us, it gets very hot in Australia and we know that it was going to be hot here as well."

Chinese sweep badminton titles

BANGKOK, Sept. 4. (Reuter):

Chinese world champions Yang Yang and Han Aiping snatched the World Cup singles titles from compatriots today.

Yang added this title to the

in world crown he took last year by whipping titleholder Zhao Jianhua 15-6, 15-6 in a 44-minute battle. The women's title also changed hands with Han beating Li Lingwei 5-11, 11-6, 11-0 in just five minutes.

Yang, shorter but faster, lost a three-game final to Zhao at this event in Kuala Lumpur last year, and today he was bent on

revenge.

He maintained constant pressure on Zhao and forced many errors. Zhao smashed his way to a few points, but gave away many more by netting or hitting wide of the lines.

Opening

The closest Zhao came was at 6-7. But then Yang, at 25 a year older than his opponent, swept to the opening game as four-times champion Lin shot into the lead at 4-3 and stayed in front.

Li opened a 4-1 lead in the second game before Han finally got her net game in order and began to win the close exchanges with her better control.

Li became more and more frustrated as Han raced through the final game.

China's world champions also clinched the men's, women's and

mixed doubles.

Malaysian brothers Jalani and Rasif Sidek were expected to give Li Yongbo and Tian Bingyi stiff opposition. But Jalani developed a fever overnight and the Chinese won on a walkover.

In the women's doubles Lin Ying and Guan Weizhen beat South Korea's So Young Chung and Yu Ja Kim 15-3, 15-7, while another South Korean pair failed against China in the mixed.

Wang Pengren and Shi Fangjin stopped Joo Bong Park and Chung Myung Hee 15-18, 15-8 in a 70-minute thriller.

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Australia arrive for tour of Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan, Sept. 4. (Reuter): Australia arrived in Pakistan today for the first international cricket series here since England's acrimonious tour last winter.

But team coach Bobby Simpson told reporters he did not expect any controversy over the umpiring. If the Pakistani umpires were of the same standard and integrity as those used during last year's World Cup it would be fine, he said.

England's tour turned into a war between the visiting team and the Pakistani umpires. First Chris Broad refused to accept a caught-behind decision, then captain Mike Gatting had his now famous clash with umpire Shakoor Rana and a day was lost.

Merely

Simpson was asked whether the Australians would object to Rana being appointed to the umpiring panel. He said merely that he had not seen the umpire in action personally and would have to wait and see.

The panel is due to be announced before the first of the three Tests, which begins in Karachi on September 15.

Pakistan have won three of their last five Test series and drawn two, both against West Indies. But this time they are without the inspiration of Imran Khan, who opted out complaining of the hot and sultry weather in Pakistan in September.

The added absence of the injured Wasim Akram has badly dented Pakistan's pace attack, though they have in Abdul Qadir the best leg-spinner in the game.

Simpson was not too concerned. "We've been battoning a lot against Qadir," he said. "He's a fine bowler and certainly we don't under-rate him. But remember that the last time in Australia he struggled against us."

"The wickets over here will probably spin a little bit, but we've been battoning at nets for some time against some leg bowlers and leg spinners at home

and we're well-matched. "Form on the day will decide it. There's no problem about the weather as we've been here at the same time for the last two years."

"We're mentally attuned to what we require, the heat won't worry us, it gets very hot in Australia and we know that it was going to be hot here as well."

LACOSTE OPENED SHOP IN KUWAIT

